

112<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2453

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 19, 2012

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and  
Urban Affairs

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## AN ACT

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins  
in commemoration of Mark Twain.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Mark Twain Com-  
3 memorative Coin Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds as follows:

6 (1) Samuel Clemens—better known to the  
7 world as Mark Twain—was a unique American voice  
8 whose literary work has had a lasting effect on our  
9 Nation’s history and culture.

10 (2) Mark Twain remains one of the best known  
11 Americans in the world with over 6,500 editions of  
12 his books translated into 75 languages.

13 (3) Mark Twain’s literary and educational leg-  
14 acy remains strong even today, with nearly every  
15 book he wrote still in print, including *The Adven-  
16 tures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry  
17 Finn*—both of which have never gone out of print  
18 since they were first published over a century ago.

19 (4) In the past 2 decades alone, there have been  
20 more than 100 books published and over 250 doc-  
21 toral dissertations written on Mark Twain’s life and  
22 work.

23 (5) Even today, Americans seek to know more  
24 about the life and work of Mark Twain, as people  
25 from around the world and across all 50 States an-  
26 nually flock to National Historic Landmarks like the

1 Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, CT, and  
2 the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum in Han-  
3 nibal, MO.

4 (6) Mark Twain’s work is remembered today  
5 for addressing the complex social issues facing  
6 America at the turn of the century, including the  
7 legacy of the Civil War, race relations, and the eco-  
8 nomic inequalities of the “Gilded Age”.

9 (7) Today Mark Twain’s work lives on through  
10 educational institutions throughout the United  
11 States, such as the Mark Twain Project at the Ban-  
12 croft Library of the University of California, Berke-  
13 ley, California, and the Center for Mark Twain  
14 Studies at Elmira College, in Elmira, New York.

15 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

16 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treas-  
17 ury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”)  
18 shall mint and issue the following coins:

19 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 100,000  
20 \$5 coins, which shall—

21 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

22 (B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

23 (C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent  
24 alloy.

1           (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 350,000  
2 \$1 coins, which shall—

3           (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

4           (B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

5           (C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 per-  
6 cent copper.

7           (b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this  
8 Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of  
9 title 31, United States Code.

10          (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
11 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted  
12 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

13 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

14          (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

15           (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins  
16 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the life  
17 and legacy of Mark Twain.

18           (2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On  
19 each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

20           (A) a designation of the value of the coin;

21           (B) an inscription of the year “2016”; and

22           (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,  
23 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-  
24 ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

1 (b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted  
2 under this Act shall be—

3 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation  
4 with the Commission of Fine Arts and the Board of  
5 the Mark Twain House and Museum; and

6 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory  
7 Committee.

8 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

9 (a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this  
10 Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

11 (b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United  
12 States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality  
13 of the coins minted under this Act.

14 (c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may  
15 issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year  
16 period beginning on January 1, 2016.

17 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

18 (a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act  
19 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum  
20 of—

21 (1) the face value of the coins;

22 (2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with  
23 respect to such coins; and

1           (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins  
2           (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,  
3           overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

4           (b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk  
5 sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable  
6 discount.

7           (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept  
9           prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act  
10          before the issuance of such coins.

11          (2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to pre-  
12          paid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a rea-  
13          sonable discount.

14 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

15          (a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this  
16 Act shall include a surcharge of—

17           (1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin; and

18           (2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

19          (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f)(1) of  
20 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by  
21 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act  
22 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary as follows:

23           (1) One-quarter of the surcharges, to the Mark  
24          Twain House & Museum in Hartford, Connecticut,  
25          to support the continued restoration of the Mark

1 Twain house and grounds, and ensure continuing  
2 growth and innovation in museum programming to  
3 research, promote and educate on the legacy of  
4 Mark Twain.

5 (2) One-quarter of the surcharges, to the Uni-  
6 versity of California, Berkeley, California, to be used  
7 for research and education purposes.

8 (3) One-quarter of the surcharges, to Elmira  
9 College, New York, to be used for research and edu-  
10 cation purposes.

11 (4) One-quarter of the surcharges, to the Mark  
12 Twain Boyhood Home and Museum in Hannibal,  
13 Missouri, to preserve historical sites related to Mark  
14 Twain and help support programs to study and pro-  
15 mote his legacy.

16 (c) AUDITS.—The Comptroller General of the United  
17 States shall have the right to examine such books, records,  
18 documents, and other data of each of the organizations  
19 referred to in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of sub-  
20 section (b) as may be related to the expenditures of  
21 amounts paid under such subsection.

22 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),  
23 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance  
24 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as  
25 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin

1 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-  
2 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual 2  
3 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under  
4 section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in  
5 effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-  
6 retary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out  
7 this subsection.

Passed the House of Representatives April 18, 2012.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*