

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2726

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the moon.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 2015

Mr. POSEY (for himself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mr. BLUM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the moon.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Apollo 11 50th Anni-
5 versary Commemorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On July 16, 1969, the Apollo 11 spacecraft
2 launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station
3 carrying Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael
4 Collins, who would become the first of human kind
5 to complete a crewed lunar landing.

6 (2) The United States is the only country ever
7 to have attempted and succeeded in landing humans
8 on a celestial body off the Earth and safely return-
9 ing them home, completing an unprecedented engi-
10 neering, scientific and political achievement.

11 (3) The Apollo 11 mission, culminating in
12 man's first steps on the Moon on July 20, 1969,
13 honored the fallen astronauts of the Apollo 1 crew,
14 whose innovative work and bravery will be remem-
15 bered forever.

16 (4) Apollo 11 accomplished the national goal set
17 forth in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, who
18 stated, "We choose to go to the moon. We choose to
19 go to the moon in this decade and do the other
20 things, not because they are easy, but because they
21 are hard, because that goal will serve to organize
22 and measure the best of our energies and skills, be-
23 cause that challenge is one that we are willing to ac-
24 cept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one
25 which we intend to win".

1 (5) At the height of the Cold War, the Apollo
2 space program provided the United States and the
3 free world with a powerful symbolic win, dem-
4 onstrating the strength, ambition, and determination
5 of the United States in technological and economic
6 advancement, and securing our Nation's leadership
7 in space for generations to come.

8 (6) Within nine years of establishing the na-
9 tional goal of human space exploration, the National
10 Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) de-
11 veloped the Saturn V rocket, which was used for the
12 Apollo missions in the 1960s and 1970s.

13 (7) The Saturn V weighed 6.2 million pounds
14 and generated 7.6 million pounds of thrust, which
15 NASA has equated to generating more power than
16 86 Hoover Dams.

17 (8) During the time period from 1969 through
18 1972 NASA completed eight Apollo missions and
19 landed 12 men on the Moon. The six missions that
20 landed on the moon returned with a wealth of
21 groundbreaking scientific data and over 800 pounds
22 of lunar samples.

23 (9) An estimated 400,000 Americans contrib-
24 uted to the successful program that led to the lunar
25 landing on July 20, 1969, including NASA sci-

1 entists, engineers, astronauts, industry contractors
2 and their engineering and manufacturing workforce,
3 as well as the political leadership of Republicans and
4 Democrats in Congress and the White House.

5 (10) The Apollo program, along with its prede-
6 cessor Mercury and Gemini programs, inspired gen-
7 erations of American students to pursue careers in
8 science, math and engineering, which has fueled in-
9 novation and economic growth throughout a range of
10 industries over the last four decades.

11 (11) July 20, 2019, will mark the 50th anniver-
12 sary of the Apollo 11 landing of Neil Armstrong and
13 Buzz Aldrin on the lunar surface.

14 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

15 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In recognition and celebration
16 of the 50th anniversary of the first manned moon landing,
17 the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act re-
18 ferred to as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue the fol-
19 lowing coins:

20 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5
21 coins, which shall—

22 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

23 (B) be struck on a planchet having a di-
24 ameter of 0.850 inches; and

25 (C) contain not less than 90 percent gold.

1 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000
2 \$1 coins, which shall—

3 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

4 (B) be struck on a planchet having a di-
5 ameter of 1.500 inches; and

6 (C) contain at least 90 percent silver.

7 (3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more
8 than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

9 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

10 (B) be struck on a planchet having a di-
11 ameter of 1.205 inches; and

12 (C) be minted to the specifications for half-
13 dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title
14 31, United States Code.

15 (4) PROOF SILVER \$1 COINS.—Not more than
16 100,000 proof \$1 silver coins which shall—

17 (A) weigh 5 ounces;

18 (B) be struck on a planchet having a di-
19 ameter of 3 inches; and

20 (C) contain .999 fine silver.

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

24 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
25 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins

1 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-
2 matic items.

3 (d) CONVEX SHAPE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The coins minted under this
5 Act shall be produced in a fashion similar to the
6 2014 National Baseball Hall of Fame 75th Anniver-
7 sary Commemorative Coin, so that the reverse of the
8 coin is convex to more closely resemble the faceplate
9 of the astronaut’s helmet of the time and the ob-
10 verse concave, providing a more dramatic display of
11 the obverse design chosen pursuant to section 4(c).

12 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
13 Congress that, to the extent possible without signifi-
14 cantly adding to the purchase price of the coins, the
15 coins minted under this Act should be produced with
16 the design of the reverse of the coins continuing over
17 what would otherwise be the edge of the coins, such
18 that the reverse design extends all the way to the ob-
19 verse design.

20 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The design for the coins minted
22 under this Act shall be—

23 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation
24 with—

25 (A) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

1 (B) with respect to the design of the re-
2 verse of the coins, the Administrator of NASA;
3 and

4 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative
5 Coin Advisory Committee.

6 (b) DESIGNATIONS AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each
7 coin minted under this Act there shall be—

8 (1) a designation of the denomination of the
9 coin;

10 (2) an inscription of the year “2019”; and

11 (3) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”, “In
12 God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and
13 “E Pluribus Unum”.

14 (c) SELECTION AND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR OB-
15 VERSE DESIGN.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall hold a
17 juried, compensated competition to determine the
18 design of the common obverse of the coins minted
19 under this Act, with such design being emblematic
20 of the United States space program leading up to
21 the first manned moon landing.

22 (2) SELECTION PROCESS.—Proposals for the
23 obverse design of coins minted under this Act may
24 be submitted in accordance with the design selection

1 and approval process developed by the Secretary in
2 the sole discretion of the Secretary.

3 (3) PROPOSALS.—As part of the competition
4 described in this subsection, the Secretary may ac-
5 cept proposals from artists, engravers of the United
6 States Mint, and members of the general public, and
7 any designs submitted for the design review process
8 described herein shall be anonymized until a final se-
9 lection is made.

10 (4) COMPENSATION.—The Secretary shall de-
11 termine compensation for the winning design under
12 this subsection, which shall be not less than \$5,000.

13 (d) REVERSE DESIGN.—The design on the common
14 reverse of the coins minted under this Act shall be a rep-
15 resentation of a close-up of the famous “Buzz Aldrin on
16 the Moon” photograph taken July 20, 1969, showing just
17 the visor and part of the helmet of astronaut Edwin Eu-
18 gene “Buzz” Aldrin, Jr., in which the visor reflects the
19 image of the United States flag and the lunar lander.

20 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

21 (a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Except with respect to
22 coins described under section 3(a)(4), coins minted under
23 this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

1 (b) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may
2 issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year
3 period beginning on January 1, 2019.

4 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

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

8 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

11 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins
12 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,
13 winning design compensation, overhead expenses,
14 marketing, and shipping).

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

18 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

1 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins minted under
3 this Act shall include a surcharge as follows:

4 (1) A surcharge of \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin.

5 (2) A surcharge of \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin
6 described under section 3(a)(2).

7 (3) A surcharge of \$5 per coin for the half-dol-
8 lar coin.

9 (4) A surcharge of \$50 per coin for the \$1 coin
10 described under section 3(a)(4).

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

15 (1) one half to the Smithsonian Institution's
16 National Air and Space Museum's "Destination
17 Moon" exhibit, for design, education, and installa-
18 tion costs related to establishing and maintaining
19 the exhibit, and for costs related to creating a trav-
20 eling version of the exhibition;

21 (2) one quarter to the Astronauts Memorial
22 Foundation, for costs related to the preservation,
23 maintenance, and enhancement of the Astronauts
24 Memorial and for promotion of space exploration
25 through educational initiatives; and

1 (3) one quarter to the Astronaut Scholarship
2 Foundation, to aid its missions of promoting the im-
3 portance of science and technology to the general
4 public and of aiding the United States in retaining
5 its world leadership in science and technology by
6 providing college scholarships for the very best and
7 brightest students pursuing degrees in science, tech-
8 nology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM).

9 (c) AUDITS.—The recipients described under sub-
10 section (b) shall be subject to the audit requirements of
11 section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with
12 regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

13 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
14 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
15 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
16 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin
17 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-
18 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual com-
19 memorative coin program issuance limitation under sec-
20 tion 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in ef-
21 fect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-
22 retary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out
23 this subsection.

1 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

2 The Secretary shall take such actions as may be nec-
3 essary to ensure that—

4 (1) minting and issuing coins under this Act
5 will not result in any net cost to the United States
6 Government; and

7 (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges,
8 are disbursed to any recipient designated in section
9 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of
10 the coins authorized by this Act (including labor,
11 materials, dies, use of machinery, winning design
12 compensation, overhead expenses, marketing, and
13 shipping) is recovered by the United States Treas-
14 ury, consistent with sections 5112(m) and 5134(f) of
15 title 31, United States Code.

16 **SEC. 9. BUDGET COMPLIANCE.**

17 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
18 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
19 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
20 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
21 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
22 by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the
23 House of Representatives, provided that such statement
24 has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

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