

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 483

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

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 25, 2009

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. BOND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

---

## A BILL

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,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that—

8               (1) Samuel Clemens—better known to the  
9       world as Mark Twain—was a unique American voice

1 whose literary work has had a lasting effect on our  
2 Nation's history and culture;

3 (2) Mark Twain remains one of the best known  
4 Americans in the world, with over 6,500 editions of  
5 his books translated into 75 languages;

6 (3) Mark Twain's literary and educational leg-  
7 acy remains strong even today, with nearly every  
8 book he wrote still in print, including "The Adven-  
9 tures of Tom Sawyer" and "Adventures of  
10 Huckleberry Finn"—both of which have never gone  
11 out of print since they were first published over a  
12 century ago;

13 (4) in the past 2 decades alone, there have been  
14 more than 100 books published and over 250 doc-  
15 toral dissertations written on Mark Twain's life and  
16 work;

17 (5) even today, Americans seek to know more  
18 about the life and work of Mark Twain, as people  
19 from around the world and across all 50 States an-  
20 nually flock to National Historic Landmarks like the  
21 Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, Con-  
22 necticut and the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Mu-  
23 seum in Hannibal, Missouri; and

24 (6) Mark Twain's work is remembered today  
25 for addressing the complex social issues facing

1 America at the turn of the century, including the  
2 legacy of the Civil War, race relations, and the eco-  
3 nomic inequalities of the “Gilded Age”.

4 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

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

8 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 100,000  
9 \$5 coins, which shall—

10 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

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

12 (C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent  
13 alloy.

14 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000  
15 \$1 coins, which shall—

16 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

18 (C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 per-  
19 cent copper.

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

23 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
24 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted  
25 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

1 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

2 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

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

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

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

9 (B) an inscription of the year “2013”; and

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

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

15 (1) selected by the Secretary, after consultation  
16 with the Commission of Fine Arts and the Board of  
17 the Mark Twain House & Museum; and

18 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory  
19 Committee.

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

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

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

1           (c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may  
2 issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year  
3 period beginning on January 1, 2013.

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 overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

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

17           (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

1 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

4 (1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin; and

5 (2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

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

10 (1)  $\frac{2}{5}$  of the surcharges, to the Mark Twain  
11 House & Museum in Hartford, Connecticut, to sup-  
12 port the continued restoration of the Mark Twain  
13 house and grounds, and to ensure continuing growth  
14 and innovation in museum programming to research,  
15 promote, and educate on the legacy of Mark Twain.

16 (2)  $\frac{1}{5}$  of the surcharges, to the Mark Twain  
17 Project at the Bancroft Library of the University of  
18 California, Berkeley, California, to support programs  
19 to study and promote Mark Twain's legacy.

20 (3)  $\frac{1}{5}$  of the surcharges, to the Center for  
21 Mark Twain Studies at Elmira College, New York,  
22 to support programs to study and promote Mark  
23 Twain's legacy.

24 (4)  $\frac{1}{5}$  of the surcharges, to the Mark Twain  
25 Boyhood Home & Museum in Hannibal, Missouri, to  
26 preserve historical sites related to Mark Twain and

1 to help support programs to study and promote  
2 Mark Twain's legacy.

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

○