

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 711

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 2023

Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) 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 the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

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 “Working Dog Com-
5 memorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Dogs going back thousands of years have
2 been tied to humans whether for protection, compan-
3 ionship, or assisting in daily activities.

4 (2) The United States had an unofficial canine
5 military presence assisting soldiers in the Civil War
6 and World War I, but military K–9s did not become
7 officially recognized until March 13, 1942. During
8 the height of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the
9 United States military employed approximately
10 2,500 K–9s.

11 (3) Military K–9s have seen service in every
12 major United States combat since World War I and
13 have been praised by military leadership as an indis-
14 pensable asset for military, police, government, and
15 private security teams around the world.

16 (4) In 2000, section 2583 of title 10, United
17 States Code (commonly known as “Robby’s Law”),
18 was enacted, which allowed for the adoption of mili-
19 tary K–9s by law enforcement agencies, former han-
20 dlers, and other care groups.

21 (5) Since 2000, military K–9s have left service
22 and gone onto work explosive detection for police
23 forces and work as service dogs for veterans and
24 families.

1 (6) Beyond their military working capacity,
2 working dogs provide enhanced mobility assistance
3 and renewed independence for the injured and dis-
4 abled. Service dogs are able to support veterans
5 struggling after war, hear for those who are deaf,
6 see for those who are blind, and even sense changes
7 in a person's body before a seizure. Working dogs
8 play a vital role in improving the lives of many.

9 (7) The service dog programs of America's
10 VetDogs were created to provide enhanced mobility
11 and renewed independence to United States vet-
12 erans, active-duty service members, and first re-
13 sponders with disabilities.

14 (8) America's VetDogs provides—

15 (A) guide dogs for individuals who are
16 blind or have low vision;

17 (B) hearing dogs for those who have lost
18 their hearing later in life by alerting to alarms,
19 door bells, sirens, and more;

20 (C) service dogs for those with other phys-
21 ical disabilities that are specially trained to pro-
22 vide balance, retrieve dropped items, open and
23 close doors, turn on and off lights, carry a
24 backpack, and more;

1 (D) facility dogs that are specially trained
2 to spend time working with wounded veterans
3 recovering at military hospitals and veterans
4 medical centers;

5 (E) dogs that work with physical and occu-
6 pational therapists as they treat soldiers and
7 become an essential part of the healing process;
8 and

9 (F) posttraumatic stress disorder service
10 dogs that are trained to help mitigate the symp-
11 toms of posttraumatic stress disorder by pro-
12 viding the emotional and physical support a vet-
13 eran may need.

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

15 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of the in-
16 valuable service that working dogs provide to society, the
17 Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter referred to in this
18 Act as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue the following
19 coins:

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

22 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

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

24 (C) contain 90 percent gold.

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

3 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

5 (C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

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

8 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

9 (B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

10 (C) be minted to the specifications for half-

11 dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title

12 31, United States Code.

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

16 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
17 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins
18 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-
19 matic items.

20 **SEC. 4. DESIGNS OF COINS.**

21 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The designs of the coins
23 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the
24 vast contributions that working dogs serve in society
25 to include the range of services that the dogs provide

1 in detection, military service, therapy, and assist-
2 ance.

3 (2) DESIGNATIONS AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On
4 each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

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

6 (B) an inscription of the year “2025”; and

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

10 (b) SELECTION.—The designs for the coins minted
11 under this Act shall be—

12 (1) selected by the Secretary, after consultation
13 with America’s VetDogs and the Commission of
14 Fine Arts; and

15 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory
16 Committee.

17 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

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

23 (c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may
24 issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year
25 period beginning on January 1, 2025.

1 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

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

5 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

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

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

14 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

21 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

24 (1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coins;

25 (2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coins; and

26 (3) \$5 per coin for the half-dollar coins.

1 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of
2 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by
3 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act
4 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to America’s
5 VetDogs for general expenses associated with the fulfill-
6 ment of the mission of America’s VetDogs, including for
7 costs associated with—

8 (1) personnel related to training, dog care, and
9 consumer needs;

10 (2) consultants to facilitate the training of
11 America’s VetDogs certified service dog instructors;
12 and

13 (3) travel, room, and board for clients served by
14 America’s VetDogs.

15 (c) AUDITS.—America’s VetDogs shall be subject to
16 the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31,
17 United States Code, with regard to the amounts received
18 under subsection (b).

19 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
20 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
21 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
22 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin
23 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-
24 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual 2
25 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under

1 section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in
2 effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-
3 retary may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

4 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

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

7 (1) minting and issuing coins under this Act
8 will not result in any net cost to the United States
9 Government; and

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

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