

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 639

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2019

Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. JONES, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DAINES, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) 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 centennial of the establishment of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

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 “Tomb of the Unknown
5 Soldier Centennial Commemorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a me-
9 morial site at Arlington National Cemetery. On

1 March 4, 1921, Congress approved the burial of an
2 unidentified soldier of the United States on the site
3 to commemorate the unknown soldiers who died dur-
4 ing World War I.

5 (2) As of the date of enactment of this Act, the
6 site also includes unknown soldiers from World War
7 II and the Korean War. These graves are marked
8 with white marble slabs embedded in the plaza below
9 the original sarcophagus.

10 (3) The original white marble sarcophagus of
11 the unknown soldier from World War I features 3
12 Greek figures representing peace, victory, and valor.
13 There are 6 wreaths, 3 sculpted on each side, which
14 represent the major campaigns of World War I.

15 (4) The original unknown soldier lay in the ro-
16 tunda of the Capitol from his arrival in the United
17 States until Armistice Day, 1921. President Warren
18 G. Harding officiated at the interment ceremonies at
19 the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National
20 Cemetery.

21 (5) The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is
22 guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and in
23 any weather by Tomb Guard sentinels. The senti-
24 nels, all of whom are volunteers, are considered to
25 be the best of the elite 3rd Infantry Regiment of the

1 Army (commonly known as the “Old Guard”), head-
 2 quartered at Fort Myer, Virginia.

3 (6) Inscribed on the back of the Tomb of the
 4 Unknown Soldier are the words, “Here rests in hon-
 5 ored glory an American soldier known but to God”.

6 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

7 (a) \$1 SILVER COINS.—The Secretary of the Treas-
 8 ury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall mint
 9 and issue not more than 100,000 \$1 coins in commemora-
 10 tion of the centennial of the establishment of the Tomb
 11 of the Unknown Soldier, each of which shall—

- 12 (1) weigh 26.73 grams;
- 13 (2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and
- 14 (3) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

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

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

22 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

23 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins
 25 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the

1 centennial of the establishment of the Tomb of the
2 Unknown Soldier.

3 (2) DESIGNATION 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 “2021”; 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 design for the coins minted
11 under this Act shall be—

12 (1) chosen by the Secretary after consultation
13 with—

14 (A) the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb
15 of the Unknown Soldier; and

16 (B) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

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

19 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

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

1 (c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may
2 issue coins under this Act only during the 1-year period
3 beginning on January 1, 2021.

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 described in section 7 with re-
10 spect to the 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 date on which the coins are issued.

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 \$10 per coin.

4 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of
5 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by
6 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act
7 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the National
8 World War I Museum and Memorial for the purposes of
9 commemorating the centennial of the establishment of the
10 Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

11 (c) AUDITS.—The National World War I Museum
12 and Memorial shall be subject to the audit requirements
13 under section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code,
14 with respect to the amounts received under subsection (b).

15 (d) LIMITATION.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection
17 (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to
18 the issuance of any coin under this Act during a cal-
19 endar year if, on the date of the issuance, the
20 issuance of the coin would result in the number of
21 commemorative coin programs issued during that
22 year to exceed the limitation under section
23 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code.

24 (2) ISSUANCE OF GUIDANCE.—The Secretary
25 may issue guidance to carry out 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 shall result in no net cost to the Federal Govern-
6 ment; and

7 (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges,
8 may be disbursed to any recipient designated in sec-
9 tion 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing
10 all of the coins authorized by this Act (including
11 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead ex-
12 penses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the
13 United States Treasury, consistent with sections
14 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States
15 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 (2 U.S.C. 931 et seq.), shall be determined by reference
20 to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of
21 PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing
22 in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Com-
23 mittee on the Budget of the Senate, provided that such
24 statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

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