

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 902

To improve circulation of the \$1 coin, create a new bullion coin, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

Mr. CASTLE (for himself and Mrs. MALONEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To improve circulation of the \$1 coin, create a new bullion coin, and for other purposes.

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 “Presidential \$1 Coin
5 Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) There are sectors of the United States econ-
9 omy, including public transportation, parking me-
10 ters, vending machines and low-dollar value trans-

1 actions, in which the use of a \$1 coin is both useful
2 and desirable for keeping costs and prices down.

3 (2) For a variety of reasons, the new \$1 coin
4 introduced in 2000 has not been widely sought-after
5 by the public, leading to higher costs for merchants
6 and thus higher prices for consumers.

7 (3) The success of the 50 States Commemora-
8 tive Coin Program for circulating quarter dollars
9 shows that a design on a United States circulating
10 coin that is regularly changed in a manner similar
11 to the systematic change in designs in such Program
12 radically increases demand for the coin, rapidly pull-
13 ing it through the economy.

14 (4) The 50 States Commemorative Coin Pro-
15 gram also has been an educational tool, teaching
16 both Americans and visitors something about each
17 State for which a quarter has been issued.

18 (5) A national survey and study by the Govern-
19 ment Accountability Office has indicated that many
20 Americans who do not seek, or who reject, the new
21 \$1 coin for use in commerce would actively seek the
22 coin if an attractive, educational rotating design
23 were to be struck on the coin.

24 (6) The President is the leader of our tripartite
25 government and the President's spouse has often set

1 the social tone for the White House while spear-
2 heading and highlighting important issues for the
3 country.

4 (7) Sacagewea, as currently represented on the
5 new \$1 coin, is an important symbol of American
6 history.

7 (8) Many people cannot name all of the Presi-
8 dents, and fewer can name the spouses, nor can
9 many people accurately place each President in the
10 proper time period of American history.

11 (9) First Spouses have not generally been rec-
12 ognized on American coinage.

13 (10) In order to revitalize the design of United
14 States coinage and return circulating coinage to its
15 position as not only a necessary means of exchange
16 in commerce but also as an object of aesthetic beau-
17 ty in its own right, it is appropriate to move many
18 of the mottos and emblems, the inscription of the
19 year, and the so-called “mint marks” that currently
20 appear on the 2 faces of each circulating coin to the
21 edge of the coin, which would allow larger and more
22 dramatic artwork on the coins reminiscent of the so-
23 called “Golden Age of Coinage” in the United
24 States, at the beginning of the Twentieth Century,
25 initiated by President Theodore Roosevelt, with the

1 assistance of noted sculptors and medallie artists
2 James Earle Fraser and Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

3 (11) Placing inscriptions on the edge of coins,
4 known as edge-incusing, is a hallmark of modern
5 coinage and is common in large-volume production
6 of coinage elsewhere in the world, such as the
7 2,700,000,000 2-Euro coins in circulation, but it has
8 not been done on a large scale in United States coin-
9 age in recent years.

10 (12) Although the Congress has authorized the
11 Secretary of the Treasury to issue gold coins with a
12 purity of 99.99 percent, the Secretary has not done
13 so.

14 (13) Bullion coins are a valuable tool for the in-
15 vestor and, in some cases, an important aspect of
16 coin collecting.

17 **SEC. 3. PRESIDENTIAL \$1 COIN PROGRAM.**

18 Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is
19 amended by inserting after subsection (m) the following
20 new subsection:

21 “(n) REDESIGN AND ISSUANCE OF CIRCULATING \$1
22 COINS HONORING EACH OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE
23 UNITED STATES.—

24 “(1) REDESIGN BEGINNING IN 2007.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sub-
2 section (d) and in accordance with the provi-
3 sions of this subsection, \$1 coins issued during
4 the period beginning January 1, 2007, and end-
5 ing upon the termination of the program under
6 paragraph (6) shall have designs on the obverse
7 selected in accordance with paragraph (2)(B)
8 which are emblematic of the Presidents of the
9 United States and a design on the reverse se-
10 lected in accordance with paragraph (2)(A).

11 “(B) CONTINUITY PROVISION.—Notwith-
12 standing subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall
13 continue to mint and issue \$1 coins which bear
14 any design in effect before the issuance of coins
15 as required under this subsection, including any
16 \$1 coin issued in accordance with subsection
17 (d)(1).

18 “(2) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—The \$1 coins
19 issued in accordance with paragraph (1)(A) shall
20 meet the following design requirements:

21 “(A) COIN REVERSE.—The design on the
22 reverse shall bear—

23 “(i) a likeness of the Statue of Lib-
24 erty extending to the rim of the coin and
25 large enough to provide a dramatic rep-

1 resentation of Liberty while not being large
2 enough to create the impression of a ‘2-
3 headed’ coin;

4 “(ii) the inscription ‘\$1’ ; and

5 “(iii) the inscription ‘United States of
6 America’.

7 “(B) COIN OBVERSE.—The design on the
8 obverse shall contain the name and likeness of
9 a President of the United States and basic in-
10 formation about the President, including the
11 dates or years of the term of office of such
12 President and a number indicating the order of
13 the period of service in which the President
14 served.

15 “(C) EDGE-INCUSED INSCRIPTIONS.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The inscription of
17 the year of minting or issuance of the coin
18 and the inscriptions ‘E Pluribus Unum’
19 and ‘In God We Trust’ shall be edge-
20 incused into the coin.

21 “(ii) PRESERVATION OF DISTINCTIVE
22 EDGE.—The edge-incusing of the inscrip-
23 tions under clause (i) on coins issued
24 under this subsection shall be done in a
25 manner that preserves the distinctive edge

1 of the coin so that the denomination of the
2 coin is readily discernible, including by in-
3 dividuals who are blind or visually im-
4 paired.

5 “(D) INSCRIPTIONS OF ‘LIBERTY’.—Not-
6 withstanding the 2d sentence of subsection
7 (d)(1), because the use of a design bearing the
8 likeness of the Statue of Liberty on the reverse
9 of the coins issued under this subsection ade-
10 quately conveys the concept of Liberty, the in-
11 scription of ‘Liberty’ shall not appear on the
12 coins.

13 “(E) PROHIBITION ON SITTING PRESIDENT
14 IN SERIES.—No coin issued under this sub-
15 section may bear the image of a President who
16 has not completed such President’s period of
17 service.

18 “(3) ISSUANCE OF COINS COMMEMORATING
19 PRESIDENTS.—

20 “(A) ORDER OF ISSUANCE.—The coins
21 issued under this subsection commemorating
22 Presidents of the United States shall be issued
23 in the order of the period of service of each
24 President, beginning with President George
25 Washington.

1 “(B) TREATMENT OF PERIOD OF SERV-
2 ICE.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
4 (ii), only 1 coin design shall be issued for
5 a period of service for any President, no
6 matter how many consecutive terms of of-
7 fice the President served.

8 “(ii) NONCONSECUTIVE TERMS.—If a
9 President has served during 2 or more
10 nonconsecutive periods of service, a coin
11 shall be issued under this subsection for
12 each such nonconsecutive period of service.

13 “(4) ISSUANCE OF COINS COMMEMORATING 4
14 PRESIDENTS DURING EACH YEAR OF THE PERIOD.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The designs for the
16 \$1 coins issued during each year of the period
17 referred to in paragraph (1) shall be emblem-
18 atic of 4 Presidents until the year the program
19 terminates.

20 “(B) NUMBER OF EACH OF 4 CIRCULATING
21 COIN DESIGNS IN EACH YEAR.—The Secretary
22 shall prescribe, on the basis of such factors as
23 the Secretary determines to be appropriate, the
24 number of \$1 coins that shall be issued with

1 each of the designs selected for each year of the
2 period referred to in paragraph (1).

3 “(5) ISSUANCE OF NUMISMATIC COINS.—The
4 Secretary may mint and issue such number of \$1
5 coins of each design selected under this subsection
6 in uncirculated and proof qualities as the Secretary
7 determines to be appropriate.

8 “(6) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—The
9 issuance of coins under this subsection shall termi-
10 nate when each President who has finished such
11 President’s period of service has been so honored
12 and may not be resumed except by an Act of Con-
13 gress.

14 “(7) REVERSION TO PRECEDING DESIGN.—
15 Upon the termination of the issuance of coins under
16 this subsection, the design of all \$1 coins shall re-
17 vert to the design on \$1 coins being issued imme-
18 diately before the issuance of coins under this sub-
19 section.”.

20 **SEC. 4. FIRST SPOUSE BULLION COIN PROGRAM.**

21 Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is
22 amended by inserting after subsection (n) (as added by
23 the preceding section of this subtitle) the following new
24 subsection:

25 “(o) FIRST SPOUSE BULLION COIN PROGRAM.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—During the same period in
2 which the \$1 coins are issued under subsection (n)
3 which are emblematic of the Presidents of the
4 United States, the Secretary of the Treasury shall
5 issue bullion coins under this subsection that are
6 emblematic of the spouse of each such President.

7 “(2) SPECIFICATIONS.—The coins issued under
8 this subsection shall—

9 “(A) have the same diameter as the \$1
10 coins described in subsection (n);

11 “(B) weigh 0.5 ounce; and

12 “(C) contain 99.99 percent pure gold.

13 “(3) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

14 “(A) COIN OBVERSE.—The design on the
15 obverse of each coin issued under this sub-
16 section shall contain—

17 “(i) the name and likeness of a person
18 who was a spouse of a President during
19 the President’s period of service;

20 “(ii) an inscription of the years during
21 which such person was the spouse of a
22 President during the President’s period of
23 service; and

1 “(iii) the number indicating the order
2 of the period of service in which such
3 President served.

4 “(B) COIN REVERSE.—The design on the
5 reverse of each coin issued under this sub-
6 section shall bear—

7 “(i) images emblematic of the life and
8 work of the First Spouse whose image is
9 borne on the obverse; and

10 “(ii) the inscription ‘United States of
11 America’.

12 “(C) DESIGNATED DENOMINATION.—Each
13 coin issued under this subsection shall bear, on
14 the reverse, an inscription of the nominal de-
15 nomination of the coin which shall be ‘\$10’.

16 “(D) DESIGN IN CASE OF NO FIRST
17 SPOUSE.—In the case of any President who
18 served without a spouse—

19 “(i) the image on the obverse of the
20 bullion coin corresponding to the \$1 coin
21 relating to such President shall be an
22 image emblematic of the concept of ‘Lib-
23 erty’—

1 “(I) as represented on a United
2 States coin issued during the period
3 of service of such President; or

4 “(II) as represented, in the case
5 of President Chester Alan Arthur, by
6 a design incorporating the name and
7 likeness of Alice Paul, a leading strat-
8 egist in the suffrage movement, who
9 was instrumental in gaining women
10 the right to vote upon the adoption of
11 the 19th amendment and thus partici-
12 pate in the election of future Presi-
13 dents, and who was born on January
14 11, 1885, during the term of Presi-
15 dent Arthur; and

16 “(ii) the reverse of such bullion coin
17 shall be of a design representative of
18 themes of such President, except that in
19 the case of the bullion coin referred to in
20 clause (i)(II) the reverse of such coin shall
21 be representative of the suffrage move-
22 ment.

23 “(E) DESIGN AND COIN FOR EACH
24 SPOUSE.—A separate coin shall be designed and
25 issued under this section for each person who

1 was the spouse of a President during any por-
2 tion of a term of office of such President.

3 “(F) INSCRIPTIONS.—Each bullion coin
4 issued under this subsection shall bear the in-
5 scription of the year of minting or issuance of
6 the coin and such other inscriptions as the Sec-
7 retary may determine to be appropriate.

8 “(4) SALE OF BULLION COINS.—Each bullion
9 coin issued under this subsection shall be sold for an
10 amount the Secretary of the Treasury determines to
11 be appropriate that is equal to or greater than the
12 sum of—

13 “(A) the face value of the coins; and

14 “(B) the cost of designing and issuing the
15 coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of
16 machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and
17 shipping).

18 “(5) ISSUANCE OF COINS COMMEMORATING
19 FIRST SPOUSES.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The bullion coins
21 issued under this subsection with respect to any
22 spouse of a President shall be issued on the
23 same schedule as the \$1 coin issued under sub-
24 section (n) with respect to such President.

1 “(B) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF BULLION
2 COINS FOR EACH DESIGN.—The Secretary
3 shall—

4 “(i) prescribe, on the basis of such
5 factors as the Secretary determines to be
6 appropriate, the maximum number of bul-
7 lion coins that shall be issued with each of
8 the designs selected under this subsection;
9 and

10 “(ii) announce, before the issuance of
11 the bullion coins of each such design, the
12 maximum number of bullion coins of that
13 design that will be issued.

14 “(C) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—No
15 bullion coin may be issued under this subsection
16 after the design on the \$1 coin reverts, in ac-
17 cordance with subsection (n)(7), to the design
18 on \$1 coins being issued immediately before the
19 issuance of coins under subsection (n).

20 “(6) QUALITY OF COINS.—The bullion coins
21 shall be issued in both proof and uncirculated quali-
22 ties.

23 “(7) SOURCE OF GOLD BULLION.—The Sec-
24 retary shall acquire gold for the coins issued under
25 this subsection by purchase of gold mined from nat-

1 ural deposits in the United States, or in a territory
2 or possession of the United States, within 1 year
3 after the month in which the ore from which it is
4 derived was mined. The Secretary shall pay not
5 more than the average world price for the gold.

6 “(8) BRONZE MEDALS.—The Secretary may
7 strike and sell bronze medals that bear the likeness
8 of the bullion coins authorized under this subsection,
9 at a price, size, and weight, and with such inscrip-
10 tions, as the Secretary determines to be appro-
11 priate.”.

12 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of the Congress that—

14 (1) while the American tradition of not issuing
15 a coin with the image of a living person has served
16 the country well and deserves to be continued as a
17 general practice, in a series of coins commemorating
18 former Presidents, all former Presidents should be
19 so honored notwithstanding such tradition;

20 (2) the full circulation potential and cost-sav-
21 ings benefit projections for the Presidential \$1 Coin
22 Program are not likely to be achieved unless the
23 coins are delivered in ways useful to ordinary com-
24 merce;

1 (3) in order for the Presidential \$1 Coin Pro-
2 gram to achieve maximum success—

3 (A) the coin should be as attractive as pos-
4 sible; and

5 (B) the Director of the United States Mint
6 should take all reasonable steps to ensure that
7 the coins described in section 5112(n) of title
8 31, United States Code, remain tarnish-free for
9 as long as possible without incurring undue ex-
10 pense;

11 (4) if the Secretary of the Treasury determines
12 to include on any \$1 coin minted under section
13 5112(n) of title 31, United States Code (as added
14 by section 4 of this Act) a mark denoting the United
15 States Mint facility at which the coin was struck,
16 such mark should be edge-incused;

17 (5) at such time as the Secretary of Treasury
18 determines to be appropriate, and after consultation
19 with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve
20 System and the submission of notice to the Con-
21 gress, the Secretary should declare to be obsolete
22 any circulating \$1 coin that bears the design of the
23 \$1 coins being issued immediately before the
24 issuance of coins with the design referred to in sec-
25 tion 5112(n)(7) of title 31, United States Code;

1 (6) in connection with the introduction of the
2 \$1 coins under the Presidential \$1 Coin Program—

3 (A) the coins should not be introduced
4 with an overly expensive taxpayer-funded public
5 relations campaign; and

6 (B) the Director of the United States
7 Mint, a bureau in the Department of the Treas-
8 ury, should work with consumer groups, media
9 outlets, and schools to ensure an adequate
10 amount of news coverage about the start of the
11 coin program so consumers will know of the
12 availability of the coins;

13 (7) the Board of Governors of the Federal Re-
14 serve System and the Secretary of the Treasury
15 should take steps to ensure that an adequate supply
16 of \$1 coins are available for commerce and collectors
17 at such places and in such quantities as are appro-
18 priate by—

19 (A) meeting, from time to time but no less
20 frequently than quarterly, with a coin users
21 group that includes representatives of mer-
22 chants who would benefit from the increased
23 usage of \$1 coins, vending machine and other
24 coin acceptor manufacturers, vending machine
25 owners and operators, transit officials, munic-

1 ipal parking officials, depository institutions,
2 coin and currency handlers, armored-car opera-
3 tors, car wash operators, and coin collectors
4 and dealers to accurately gauge demand for
5 coins and to anticipate and eliminate obstacles
6 to the easy and efficient distribution and cir-
7 culation of coins issued under the Presidential
8 \$1 Coin Program as well as all other circulating
9 coins;

10 (B) submitting a semiannual report to the
11 Congress containing an assessment of the re-
12 maining obstacles to the efficient and timely
13 circulation of coins, and particularly coins
14 issued under the Presidential \$1 Coin Program,
15 together with such recommendations for legisla-
16 tive action the Board and the Secretary may
17 determine to be appropriate;

18 (C) consulting with industry representa-
19 tives to encourage operators of vending ma-
20 chines and other automated coin-accepting de-
21 vices in the United States to accept coins issued
22 under the Presidential \$1 Coin Program, and to
23 include notices on the machines and devices of
24 such acceptability;

1 (D) ensuring that during an introductory
2 period, all institutions that want unmixed sup-
3 plies of each newly-issued design of \$1 coins
4 under the Presidential \$1 Coin Program are
5 able to obtain such unmixed supplies; and

6 (E) consulting with representatives of de-
7 pository institutions and armored-car operators
8 to support the availability of \$1 coins in pack-
9 aging of sizes and types appropriate for and
10 useful to ordinary commerce, including rolled
11 coins; and

12 (8) the Director of the United States Mint
13 should take all steps necessary to expand the mar-
14 ketplace for bullion coins, and reduce barriers to the
15 sale of bullion coins, by ensuring that—

16 (A) the greatest number possible of rep-
17 utable, reliable, and responsible dealers are
18 qualified to offer for sale all bullion coins struck
19 and issued by the United States Mint; and

20 (B) all such dealers and their customers
21 have equal and timely access to all new issues
22 of such bullion coins.

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