

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2196

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the birth of Thomas Alva Edison, to redesign the half dollar circulating coin for 1997 to commemorate Thomas Edison, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 3, 1996

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BRADLEY, and Mr. DEWINE) 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 sesquicentennial of the birth of Thomas Alva Edison, to redesign the half dollar circulating coin for 1997 to commemorate Thomas Edison, 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 “Thomas Alva Edison
5 Sesquicentennial Commemorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress hereby finds the following:

1 (1) Thomas Alva Edison, one of America’s
2 greatest inventors, was born on February 11, 1847,
3 in Milan, Ohio.

4 (2) Thomas A. Edison’s inexhaustible energy
5 and genius produced more than 1,300 inventions in
6 his lifetime, including the incandescent light bulb
7 and the phonograph.

8 (3) In 1928, Thomas A. Edison received the
9 Congressional gold medal “for development and ap-
10 plication of inventions that have revolutionized civili-
11 zation in the last century”.

12 (4) 1997 will mark the sesquicentennial of
13 Thomas A. Edison’s birth.

14 **TITLE I—COMMEMORATIVE**
15 **COINS**

16 **SEC. 101. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

17 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of the ses-
18 quicentennial of the birth of Thomas A. Edison, the Sec-
19 retary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Sec-
20 retary”) shall mint and issue the following coins:

- 21 (1) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 350,000
22 1 dollar coins, each of which shall—
23 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;
24 (B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

1 (C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 per-
2 cent copper.

3 (2) HALF DOLLAR SILVER COINS.—Not more
4 than 350,000 half dollar coins, each of which shall—

5 (A) weigh 12.50 grams;

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

7 (C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 per-
8 cent copper.

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

12 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
13 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted
14 under this title shall be considered to be numismatic items.

15 **SEC. 102. SOURCES OF BULLION.**

16 The Secretary shall obtain silver for minting coins
17 under this title only from stockpiles established under the
18 Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act.

19 **SEC. 103. DESIGN OF COINS.**

20 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins
22 minted under this title shall be emblematic of the
23 many inventions made by Thomas A. Edison
24 throughout his prolific life.

1 (2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On
2 each coin minted under this title there shall be—

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

4 (B) an inscription of the years “1847–
5 1997”; and

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

9 (3) OBVERSE OF COIN.—The obverse of each
10 coin minted under this title shall bear the likeness
11 of Thomas A. Edison.

12 (b) DESIGN COMPETITION.—Before the end of the 3-
13 month period beginning on the date of the enactment of
14 this Act, the Secretary shall conduct an open design com-
15 petition for the design of the obverse and the reverse of
16 the coins minted under this title.

17 (c) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted
18 under this title shall be—

19 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation
20 with the Commission of Fine Arts; and

21 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative
22 Coin Advisory Committee.

23 **SEC. 104. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

24 (a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this
25 title shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

1 (b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United
2 States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality
3 of the coins minted under this title.

4 (c) COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.—The Secretary
5 may issue coins minted under this title beginning January
6 1, 1997.

7 (d) TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.—No
8 coins may be minted under this title after December 31,
9 1997.

10 **SEC. 105. SALE OF COINS.**

11 (a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this title
12 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum
13 of—

14 (1) the face value of the coins;

15 (2) the surcharge provided in subsection (d)
16 with respect to such coins; and

17 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins
18 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,
19 overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

20 (b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk
21 sales of the coins issued under this title at a reasonable
22 discount.

23 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept
2 prepaid orders for the coins minted under this title
3 before the issuance of such coins.

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

7 (d) SURCHARGES.—All sales of coins minted under
8 this title shall include a surcharge of—

9 (1) \$14 per coin for the \$1 coin; and

10 (2) \$7 per coin for the half dollar coin.

11 **SEC. 106. GENERAL WAIVER OF PROCUREMENT REGULA-**
12 **TIONS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
14 (b), no provision of law governing procurement or public
15 contracts shall be applicable to the procurement of goods
16 and services necessary for carrying out the provisions of
17 this title.

18 (b) EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.—Sub-
19 section (a) shall not relieve any person entering into a con-
20 tract under the authority of this title from complying with
21 any law relating to equal employment opportunity.

22 **SEC. 107. DISTRIBUTION OF SURCHARGES.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The first \$7,000,000 of the sur-
24 charges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins

1 issued under this title shall be promptly paid by the Sec-
2 retary as follows:

3 (1) $\frac{1}{7}$ to the Museum of Arts and History, in
4 the city of Port Huron, Michigan for the endowment
5 and construction of a special museum on Thomas A.
6 Edison's life in Port Huron.

7 (2) $\frac{1}{7}$ to the Edison Birthplace Association, In-
8 corporated, in Milan, Ohio, to assist in such associa-
9 tion's efforts to raise an endowment as a permanent
10 source of support for the repair and maintenance of
11 the Thomas A. Edison birthplace, a national historic
12 landmark.

13 (3) $\frac{1}{7}$ to the National Park Service for use in
14 protecting, restoring, and cataloguing historic docu-
15 ments and objects at Thomas A. Edison's "invention
16 factory" in West Orange, New Jersey.

17 (4) $\frac{1}{7}$ to the Edison Plaza Museum in Beau-
18 mont, Texas, for expanding educational programs on
19 Thomas A. Edison and for the repair and mainte-
20 nance of the museum.

21 (5) $\frac{1}{7}$ to the Edison Winter Home and Mu-
22 seum in Fort Myers, Florida, for historic preserva-
23 tion, restoration, and maintenance of Thomas A.
24 Edison's historic home and chemical laboratory.

1 (6) $\frac{1}{7}$ to Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michi-
2 gan, for use in maintaining and expanding displays
3 and educational programs associated with Thomas
4 A. Edison.

5 (7) $\frac{1}{7}$ to the Edison Memorial Tower in Edi-
6 son, New Jersey, for the preservation, restoration,
7 and expansion of the tower and museum.

8 (b) EXCESS PAYABLE TO THE NATIONAL NUMIS-
9 MATIC COLLECTION.—After payment of the amount re-
10 quired under subsection (a), the Secretary shall pay the
11 remaining surcharges to the National Museum of Amer-
12 ican History, Washington, D.C., for the support of the Na-
13 tional Numismatic Collection at the museum.

14 (c) AUDITS.—The Comptroller General of the United
15 States shall have the right to examine such books, records,
16 documents, and other data of any organization which re-
17 ceives any payment from the Secretary under this section,
18 as may be related to the expenditures of amounts paid
19 under this section.

20 **SEC. 108. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

21 (a) NO NET COST TO THE GOVERNMENT.—The Sec-
22 retary shall take such actions as may be necessary to en-
23 sure that minting and issuing coins under this title will
24 not result in any net cost to the United States Govern-
25 ment.

1 (b) PAYMENT FOR COINS.—A coin shall not be issued
2 under this title unless the Secretary has received—

3 (1) full payment for the coin;

4 (2) security satisfactory to the Secretary to in-
5 demnify the United States for full payment; or

6 (3) a guarantee of full payment satisfactory to
7 the Secretary from a depository institution whose
8 deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insur-
9 ance Corporation or the National Credit Union Ad-
10 ministration Board.

11 **TITLE II—CIRCULATING COINS**

12 **SEC. 201. REDESIGN OF HALF DOLLAR CIRCULATING COINS**

13 **FOR 1997.**

14 Section 5112(d) of title 31, United States Code, is
15 amended by inserting after the 6th sentence the following
16 new sentence: “The obverse side of half dollar coins mint-
17 ed after December 31, 1996, and before January 1, 1998,
18 shall have the same likeness of Thomas Alva Edison as
19 the commemorative coins minted under title I of the
20 Thomas Alva Edison Sesquicentennial Commemorative
21 Coin Act.”.

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