

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1228

To provide for a 10-year circulating commemorative coin program to commemorate each of the 50 States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 26, 1997

Mr. CHAFEE (for himself and Mr. D'AMATO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To provide for a 10-year circulating commemorative coin program to commemorate each of the 50 States, 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 “50 States Commemo-
5 rative Coin Program Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) it is appropriate and timely—

1 (A) to honor the unique Federal republic
2 of 50 States that comprise the United States;
3 and

4 (B) to promote the diffusion of knowledge
5 among the youth of the United States about the
6 individual States, their history and geography,
7 and the rich diversity of the national heritage;

8 (2) the circulating coinage of the United States
9 has not been modernized during the 25-year period
10 preceding the date of enactment of this Act;

11 (3) a circulating commemorative 25-cent coin
12 program could produce earnings of \$110,000,000
13 from the sale of silver proof coins and sets over the
14 10-year period of issuance, and would produce indi-
15 rect earnings of an estimated \$2,600,000,000 to
16 \$5,100,000,000 to the United States Treasury,
17 money that will replace borrowing to fund the na-
18 tional debt to at least that extent; and

19 (4) it is appropriate to launch a commemorative
20 circulating coin program that encourages young peo-
21 ple and their families to collect memorable tokens of
22 all of the States for the face value of the coins.

1 **SEC. 3. ISSUANCE OF REDESIGNED QUARTER DOLLARS**
 2 **OVER 10-YEAR PERIOD COMMEMORATING**
 3 **EACH OF THE 50 STATES.**

4 Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is
 5 amended by inserting after subsection (k) the following
 6 new subsection:

7 “(1) REDESIGN AND ISSUANCE OF QUARTER DOLLAR
 8 IN COMMEMORATION OF EACH OF THE 50 STATES.—

9 “(1) REDESIGN BEGINNING IN 1999.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the
 11 fourth sentence of subsection (d)(1) and sub-
 12 section (d)(2), quarter dollar coins issued dur-
 13 ing the 10-year period beginning in 1999, shall
 14 have designs on the reverse side selected in ac-
 15 cordance with this subsection which are em-
 16 blematic of the 50 States.

17 “(B) TRANSITION PROVISION.—Notwith-
 18 standing subparagraph (A), the Secretary may
 19 continue to mint and issue quarter dollars in
 20 1999 which bear the design in effect before the
 21 redesign required under this subsection and an
 22 inscription of the year ‘1998’ as required to en-
 23 sure a smooth transition into the 10-year pro-
 24 gram under this subsection.

25 “(2) SINGLE STATE DESIGNS.—The design on
 26 the reverse side of each quarter dollar issued during

1 the 10-year period referred to in paragraph (1) shall
2 be emblematic of 1 of the 50 States.

3 “(3) ISSUANCE OF COINS COMMEMORATING 5
4 STATES DURING EACH OF THE 10 YEARS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The designs for the
6 quarter dollar coins issued during each year of
7 the 10-year period referred to in paragraph (1)
8 shall be emblematic of 5 States selected in the
9 order in which such States ratified the Con-
10 stitution of the United States or were admitted
11 into the Union, as the case may be.

12 “(B) NUMBER OF EACH OF 5 COIN DE-
13 SIGNS IN EACH YEAR.—Of the quarter dollar
14 coins issued during each year of the 10-year pe-
15 riod referred to in paragraph (1), the Secretary
16 of the Treasury shall prescribe, on the basis of
17 such factors as the Secretary determines to be
18 appropriate, the number of quarter dollars
19 which shall be issued with each of the 5 designs
20 selected for such year.

21 “(4) SELECTION OF DESIGN.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each of the 50 de-
23 signs required under this subsection for quarter
24 dollars shall be—

1 “(i) selected by the Secretary after
2 consultation with—

3 “(I) the Governor of the State
4 being commemorated, or such other
5 State officials or group as the State
6 may designate for such purpose; and

7 “(II) the Commission of Fine
8 Arts; and

9 “(ii) reviewed by the Citizens Com-
10 memorative Coin Advisory Committee.

11 “(B) SELECTION AND APPROVAL PROC-
12 ESS.—Designs for quarter dollars may be sub-
13 mitted in accordance with the design selection
14 and approval process developed by the Sec-
15 retary in the sole discretion of the Secretary.

16 “(C) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary may
17 include participation by State officials, artists
18 from the States, engravers of the United States
19 Mint, and members of the general public.

20 “(D) STANDARDS.—Because it is impor-
21 tant that the Nation’s coinage and currency
22 bear dignified designs of which the citizens of
23 the United States can be proud, the Secretary
24 shall not select any frivolous or inappropriate

1 design for any quarter dollar minted under this
2 subsection.

3 “(E) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN REP-
4 RESENTATIONS.—No head and shoulders por-
5 trait or bust of any person, living or dead, and
6 no portrait of a living person may be included
7 in the design of any quarter dollar under this
8 subsection.

9 “(5) TREATMENT AS NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For
10 purposes of sections 5134 and 5136, all coins mint-
11 ed under this subsection shall be considered to be
12 numismatic items.

13 “(6) ISSUANCE.—

14 “(A) QUALITY OF COINS.—The Secretary
15 may mint and issue such number of quarter
16 dollars of each design selected under paragraph
17 (4) in uncirculated and proof qualities as the
18 Secretary determines to be appropriate.

19 “(B) SILVER COINS.—Notwithstanding
20 subsection (b), the Secretary may mint and
21 issue such number of quarter dollars of each
22 design selected under paragraph (4) as the Sec-
23 retary determines to be appropriate, with a con-
24 tent of 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

1 “(C) SOURCES OF BULLION.—The Sec-
2 retary shall obtain silver for minting coins
3 under subparagraph (B) from available re-
4 sources, including stockpiles established under
5 the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Pil-
6 ing Act.

7 “(7) APPLICATION IN EVENT OF THE ADMIS-
8 SION OF ADDITIONAL STATES.—If any additional
9 State is admitted into the Union before the end of
10 the 10-year period referred to in paragraph (1), the
11 Secretary of the Treasury may issue quarter dollar
12 coins, in accordance with this subsection, with a de-
13 sign which is emblematic of such State during any
14 1 year of such 10-year period, in addition to the
15 quarter dollar coins issued during such year in ac-
16 cordance with paragraph (3)(A).”.

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