

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7152

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration  
of Mark Twain.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. KUHLMANN of New York, Ms. LEE, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins  
in commemoration of Mark Twain.

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 “Mark Twain Com-  
5 memorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) Samuel Clemens—better known to the  
9 world as Mark Twain—was a unique American voice

1 whose literary work has had a lasting effect on our  
2 Nation's history and culture.

3 (2) Mark Twain remains one of the best known  
4 Americans in the world with over 6,500 editions of  
5 his books translated into 75 languages.

6 (3) Mark Twain's literary and educational leg-  
7 acy remains strong even today, with nearly every  
8 book he wrote still in print, including *The Adven-*  
9 *tures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry*  
10 *Finn*—both of which have never gone out of print  
11 since they were first published over a century ago.

12 (4) In the past 2 decades alone, there have been  
13 more than 100 books published and over 250 doc-  
14 toral dissertations written on Mark Twain's life and  
15 work.

16 (5) Even today, Americans seek to know more  
17 about the life and work of Mark Twain, as people  
18 from around the world and across all 50 States an-  
19 nually flock to National Historic Landmarks like the  
20 Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, CT and  
21 the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum in Han-  
22 nibal, MO.

23 (6) Mark Twain's work is remembered today  
24 for addressing the complex social issues facing  
25 America at the turn of the century, including the

1 legacy of the Civil War, race relations, and the eco-  
2 nomic inequalities of the “Gilded Age”.

3 (7) The year 2010 will mark both the 175th an-  
4 niversary of Mark Twain’s birth and the 125th anni-  
5 versary of the publication of Adventures of Huckle-  
6 berry Finn.

7 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

8 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treas-  
9 ury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”)  
10 shall mint and issue the following coins:

11 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 100,000  
12 \$5 coins, which shall—

13 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

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

15 (C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent  
16 alloy.

17 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000  
18 \$1 coins, which shall—

19 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

21 (C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 per-  
22 cent copper.

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

1 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
2 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted  
3 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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

5 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins  
7 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the life  
8 and legacy of Mark Twain.

9 (2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On  
10 each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

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

12 (B) an inscription of the year “2010” ;

13 and

14 (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,

15 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-

16 ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

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

19 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation  
20 with the Commission of Fine Arts and the Board of  
21 the Mark Twain House and Museum; and

22 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory  
23 Committee.

1 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

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

7 (c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may  
8 issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year  
9 period beginning on January 1, 2010.

10 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

11 (a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act  
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 section 7(a) with  
16 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 Act at a reasonable  
22 discount.

23 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

4 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

7           (1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin; and

8           (2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

9           (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f)(1) of  
10 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by  
11 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act  
12 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary as follows:

13           (1)  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the surcharges, to the Mark Twain  
14 House & Museum in Hartford, Connecticut, to sup-  
15 port the continued restoration of the Mark Twain  
16 house and grounds, and ensure continuing growth  
17 and innovation in museum programming to research,  
18 promote and educate on the legacy of Mark Twain.

19           (2)  $\frac{1}{6}$  of the surcharges, to the Mark Twain  
20 Project at the Bancroft Library of the University of  
21 California, Berkeley, California, to support programs  
22 to study and promote Mark Twain's legacy.

23           (3)  $\frac{1}{6}$  of the surcharges, to the Center for  
24 Mark Twain Studies at Elmira College, New York,

1 to support programs to study and promote Mark  
2 Twain's legacy.

3 (4)  $\frac{1}{6}$  of the surcharges, to the Mark Twain  
4 Boyhood Home and Museum in Hannibal, Missouri,  
5 to preserve historical sites related to Mark Twain  
6 and help support programs to study and promote his  
7 legacy.

8 (c) AUDITS.—The Comptroller General of the United  
9 States shall have the right to examine such books, records,  
10 documents, and other data of each of the organizations  
11 referred to in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of sub-  
12 section (b) as may be related to the expenditures of  
13 amounts paid under such subsection.

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