

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2968

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of President James Monroe, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

Mr. WITTMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of President James Monroe, 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 “James Monroe Com-
5 memorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress hereby finds as follows:

8 (1) James Monroe was the only United States
9 President besides George Washington to have ac-

1 tively served in the regular military during the Revo-
2 lutionary War.

3 (2) James Monroe—

4 (A) participated in the Battles of Harlem
5 Heights and White Plains;

6 (B) crossed the Delaware River in advance
7 of George Washington;

8 (C) was seriously wounded at the Battle of
9 Trenton and cited for conspicuous gallantry;

10 (D) wintered with the Continental Army at
11 Valley Forge; and

12 (E) subsequently participated in the Bat-
13 tles of Brandywine, Germantown and Mon-
14 mouth.

15 (3) James Monroe served at the State level in
16 the Virginia House of Delegates and served 4 times
17 as the Governor of Virginia.

18 (4) James Monroe served at the national level
19 as a member of the Continental Congress, United
20 States Senator, Minister to France (negotiating the
21 Louisiana Purchase), Minister to Spain, Minister to
22 England, Secretary of War, and Secretary of State
23 (he was the only person to ever hold those 2 posts
24 simultaneously, defending the Nation during the

1 War of 1812), and finally as President of the United
2 States from 1817–1825.

3 (5) James Monroe’s accomplishments as Presi-
4 dent included the purchase of Florida, limiting the
5 expansion of slavery, the admission of Maine and
6 Missouri as States, and the promulgation of prin-
7 ciples that became known as the “Monroe Doctrine”
8 on December 2, 1823, expanding the concept of
9 hemispheric independence beyond the United
10 States—truly making him one of the most important
11 figures in our Nation’s history.

12 (6) The bicentennial of the election of James
13 Monroe as President will occur in 2016, an election
14 which ushered in what has been known since as the
15 “Era of Good Feelings”.

16 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

17 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of the bi-
18 centennial of the election of James Monroe to the first
19 of 2 terms as President of the United States of America,
20 the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act re-
21 ferred to as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue the fol-
22 lowing coins:

23 (1) \$50 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 20,000
24 \$50 gold coins which shall—

25 (A) weigh 33.931 grams;

1 (B) have a diameter of 32.7 millimeters;

2 and

3 (C) contain 1 troy ounce of fine gold.

4 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 275,000
5 \$1 coins which shall—

6 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

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

10 (3) HALF DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more
11 than 500,000 half dollar coins, which shall—

12 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

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

14 (C) be minted to the specifications for half
15 dollar coins, contained in section 5112(b) of
16 title 31, United States Code.

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

20 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
21 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted
22 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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

24 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins
2 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of Presi-
3 dent James Monroe and his immeasurable contribu-
4 tions to the United States.

5 (2) OBVERSE.—The obverse of the coins minted
6 under this Act shall bear the side profile image of
7 President James Monroe based upon Rembrandt
8 Peale’s 1830 portrait which the James Monroe Me-
9 morial Foundation donated to The Commonwealth
10 of Virginia in 1964.

11 (3) REVERSE.—The reverse of the coins minted
12 under this Act shall bear the image of the Monroe
13 birthplace as drawn by the Colonial Williamsburg
14 Foundation based on the 1830 drawing published as
15 an etching.

16 (4) DESIGNATIONS AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On
17 each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

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

19 (B) an inscription of the year “2016”; and

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

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

22 ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

23 (b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted
24 under this Act shall—

1 (1) be selected by the Secretary, after consulta-
2 tion with the James Monroe Memorial Foundation
3 and the Commission of Fine Arts; and

4 (2) be reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advi-
5 sory Committee.

6 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

9 (b) **MINT FACILITIES.**—For each of the 3 coins mint-
10 ed under this Act, at least 1 facility of the United States
11 Mint shall be used to strike proof quality coins, while at
12 least 1 other such facility shall be used to strike the uncir-
13 culated quality coins.

14 (c) **PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.**—The Secretary may
15 issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year
16 period beginning on January 1, 2016.

17 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

18 (a) **SALE PRICE.**—The coins issued under this Act
19 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum
20 of—

21 (1) the face value of the coins;

22 (2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with
23 respect to such coins; and

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

4 (b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk
5 sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable
6 discount.

7 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

14 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins minted under
16 this Act shall include a surcharge as follows:

17 (1) A surcharge of \$35 per coin for the \$50
18 coin.

19 (2) A surcharge of \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

20 (3) A surcharge of \$5 per coin for the half dol-
21 lar coin.

22 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of
23 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by
24 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act
25 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the James Mon-

1 roe Memorial Foundation for use for the following pur-
2 poses:

3 (1) Development of the reconstructed birthplace
4 of the 5th President, associated farm buildings, and
5 a visitor and education center at the James Monroe
6 Birthplace in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

7 (2) Continuing support of that facilities de-
8 scribed in paragraph (1), including the acquisition of
9 land originally owned by the Monroe Family.

10 (3) Supporting education programs about
11 President James Monroe, the Monroe Doctrine, in-
12 cluding an online library.

13 (4) Collecting and preserving artifacts and his-
14 torical items related to President Monroe, the Mon-
15 roe Doctrine, and his era which was known as “The
16 Era of Good Feelings”.

17 (c) AUDITS.—The James Monroe Memorial Founda-
18 tion shall be subject to the audit requirements of section
19 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard
20 to the amounts received by such Foundation under sub-
21 section (b).

22 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
23 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
24 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
25 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin

1 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-
2 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual 2
3 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under
4 section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in
5 effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-
6 retary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out
7 this subsection.

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