

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1929

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

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 30, 2011

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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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 the following:

8           (1) Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark  
9       Twain, was a unique American voice whose literary

1 work has had a lasting effect on the history and cul-  
2 ture of the United States.

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) The literary and educational legacy of Mark  
7 Twain remains strong. Nearly every book he wrote  
8 is still in print, including *The Adventures of Tom*  
9 *Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*,  
10 neither of which has gone out of print since it was  
11 first published, more than a century ago.

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

16 (5) Even today, people in the United States  
17 seek to know more about the life and work of Mark  
18 Twain. People from around the world and all 50  
19 States visit national historic landmarks like the  
20 Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford, Con-  
21 necticut, and the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and  
22 Museum in Hannibal, Missouri.

23 (6) The work of Mark Twain is remembered for  
24 addressing the complex social issues facing the  
25 United States at the turn of the century, including

1 the legacy of the Civil War, race relations, and the  
2 economic inequalities of the so-called “Gilded Age”.

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

4 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treas-  
5 ury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”)  
6 shall mint and issue the following coins in commemoration  
7 of Mark Twain:

8 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 100,000  
9 \$5 coins, which shall—

10 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

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

12 (C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent  
13 alloy.

14 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 350,000  
15 \$1 coins, which shall—

16 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

18 (C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 per-  
19 cent copper.

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

23 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
24 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins

1 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-  
2 matic items.

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

4 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation  
18 with the Commission of Fine Arts and the Board of  
19 the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford,  
20 Connecticut; and

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

23 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

24 (a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this  
25 Act 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 Act.

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

7 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

8 (a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act  
9 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum  
10 of—

11 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

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

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

20 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept  
22 prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act  
23 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) One-fourth of the surcharges shall be paid  
14 to the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford,  
15 Connecticut, to support the restoration of the Mark  
16 Twain house and grounds and to ensure growth and  
17 innovation in museum programming to research,  
18 promote, and educate on the legacy of Mark Twain.

19           (2) One-fourth of the surcharges shall be paid  
20 to the Mark Twain Project at the Bancroft Library  
21 of the University of California, Berkeley, California,  
22 to support programs to study and promote the leg-  
23 acy of Mark Twain.

24           (3) One-fourth of the surcharges shall be paid  
25 to the Center for Mark Twain Studies at Elmira

1 College, New York, to support programs to study  
2 and promote the legacy of Mark Twain.

3 (4) One-fourth of the surcharges shall be paid  
4 to the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum in  
5 Hannibal, Missouri, to preserve historical sites relat-  
6 ing to Mark Twain and to support programs to  
7 study and promote the legacy of Mark Twain.

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 subsection (b) as may be related to the ex-  
12 penditures of amounts paid under that subsection.

13 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),  
14 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance  
15 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as  
16 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin  
17 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-  
18 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual 2  
19 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under  
20 section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in  
21 effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-  
22 retary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out  
23 this subsection.

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