

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1468

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 1999

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services

AN ACT

To authorize the minting and issuance of Capitol Visitor Center Commemorative coins, 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 “United States Capitol
5 Visitor Center Commemorative Coin Act of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) Congress moved to Washington, District of
4 Columbia, and first convened in the Capitol building
5 in the year 1800;

6 (2) the Capitol building is now the greatest visi-
7 ble symbol of representative democracy in the world;

8 (3) the Capitol building has approximately
9 5,000,000 visitors annually and suffers from a lack
10 of facilities necessary to properly serve them;

11 (4) the Capitol building and persons within the
12 Capitol have been provided with excellent security
13 through the dedication and sacrifice of the United
14 States Capitol Police;

15 (5) Congress has appropriated \$100,000,000,
16 to be supplemented with private funds, to construct
17 a Capitol Visitor Center to provide continued high
18 security for the Capitol and enhance the educational
19 experience of visitors to the Capitol;

20 (6) Congress would like to offer the opportunity
21 for all persons to voluntarily participate in raising
22 funds for the Capitol Visitor Center; and

23 (7) it is appropriate to authorize coins com-
24 memorating the first convening of the Congress in
25 the Capitol building with proceeds from the sale of
26 the coins, less expenses, being deposited for the

1 United States Capitol Preservation Commission with
2 the specific purpose of aiding in the construction,
3 maintenance, and preservation of a Capitol Visitor
4 Center.

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

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

9 (1) BIMETALLIC COINS.—Not more than
10 200,000 \$10 bimetallic coins of gold and platinum,
11 in accordance with such specifications as the Sec-
12 retary determines to be appropriate.

13 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000
14 \$1 coins, which shall—

15 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

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

19 (3) HALF DOLLAR.—Not more than 750,000
20 half dollar clad coins, each of which—

21 (A) shall weigh 11.34 grams;

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

23 (C) be minted to the specifications for half
24 dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title
25 31, United States Code.

1 (b) \$5 GOLD COINS.—If the Secretary determines
2 that the minting and issuance of bimetallic coins under
3 subsection (a)(1) is not feasible, the Secretary may mint
4 and issue instead not more than 100,000 \$5 coins, which
5 shall—

6 (1) weigh 8.359 grams;

7 (2) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

8 (3) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent
9 alloy.

10 (c) WAIVER.—Each of the mintage levels specified in
11 subsection (a) may be waived in accordance with section
12 5112(m)(2)(B) of title 31, United States Code.

13 (d) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this
14 Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of
15 title 31, United States Code.

16 **SEC. 4. SOURCES OF BULLION.**

17 (a) PLATINUM AND GOLD.—The Secretary shall ob-
18 tain platinum and gold for minting coins under this Act
19 from available sources.

20 (b) SILVER.—The Secretary may obtain silver for
21 minting coins under this Act from stockpiles established
22 under the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling
23 Act, and from other available sources.

24 **SEC. 5. DESIGN OF COINS.**

25 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins
2 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the
3 first meeting of the United States Congress in the
4 United States Capitol Building.

5 (2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On
6 each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

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

8 (B) an inscription of the year “2000”; and

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

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

14 (1) selected by the Secretary, after consultation
15 with the United States Capitol Preservation Com-
16 mission (in this Act referred to as the “Commis-
17 sion”) and the Commission of Fine Arts; and

18 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative
19 Coin Advisory Committee.

20 **SEC. 6. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

23 (b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United
24 States Mint may be used to strike any particular combina-

1 tion of denomination and quality of the coins minted under
2 this Act.

3 (c) FIRST USE OF YEAR 2000 DATE.—The coins
4 minted under this Act shall be the first commemorative
5 coins of the United States to be issued bearing the inscrip-
6 tion of the year “2000”.

7 (d) PROMOTION CONSULTATION.—The Secretary
8 shall—

9 (1) consult with the Commission in order to es-
10 tablish a role for the Commission or an entity des-
11 ignated by the Commission in the promotion, adver-
12 tising, and marketing of the coins minted under this
13 Act; and

14 (2) if the Secretary determines that such action
15 would be beneficial to the sale of coins minted under
16 this Act, enter into a contract with the Commission
17 or an entity referred to in paragraph (1) to carry
18 out the role established under paragraph (1).

19 **SEC. 7. SALE OF COINS.**

20 (a) SALE PRICE.—The coins minted under this Act
21 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum
22 of—

23 (1) the face value of the coins;

24 (2) the surcharge provided in subsection (d)
25 with 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 (d) SURCHARGES.—All sales under this Act shall in-
15 clude a surcharge established by the Secretary, in an
16 amount equal to not more than—

17 (1) \$50 per coin for the \$10 coin or \$35 per
18 coin for the \$5 coin;

19 (2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin; and

20 (3) \$3 per coin for the half dollar coin.

21 **SEC. 8. DISTRIBUTION OF SURCHARGES.**

22 All surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale
23 of coins minted under this Act shall be deposited in the
24 Capitol Preservation Fund in accordance with section
25 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, and shall be made

1 available to the Commission for the purpose of aiding in
2 the construction, maintenance, and preservation of a Cap-
3 itol Visitor Center.

Passed the Senate July 30, 1999.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.