

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6701

To provide for a program for circulating quarter dollar coins that are emblematic of prominent civil rights leaders and important events that have advanced civil rights in America.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2008

Mr. WATT (for himself, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. WATERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To provide for a program for circulating quarter dollar coins that are emblematic of prominent civil rights leaders and important events that have advanced civil rights in America.

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 “Civil Rights Quarter
5 Dollar Coin Act of 2008”.

1 **TITLE I—CIVIL RIGHTS**
2 **QUARTER DOLLARS**

3 **SEC. 101. ISSUANCE OF REDESIGNED QUARTER DOLLARS**
4 **EMBLEMATIC OF PROMINENT CIVIL RIGHTS**
5 **LEADERS AND CIVIL RIGHTS EFFORTS IN**
6 **AMERICA.**

7 Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is
8 amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subsection (r) (as added by
10 section 622 of the Financial Services and General
11 Government Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law
12 110–161) as subsection (s); and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
14 section:

15 “(t) REDESIGN AND ISSUANCE OF QUARTER DOL-
16 LARS EMBLEMATIC OF PROMINENT CIVIL RIGHTS LEAD-
17 ERS AND CIVIL RIGHTS EFFORTS IN AMERICA.—

18 “(1) REDESIGN BEGINNING UPON COMPLETION
19 OF PRIOR PROGRAM.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the
21 fourth sentence of subsection (d)(1) and sub-
22 section (d)(2), quarter dollars issued after the
23 end of the program established under sub-
24 section (s) shall have designs on the reverse se-
25 lected in accordance with this subsection which

1 are emblematic of prominent civil rights leaders
2 and important events that have advanced civil
3 rights in America.

4 “(B) FLEXIBILITY WITH REGARD TO
5 PLACEMENT OF INSCRIPTIONS.—Notwith-
6 standing subsection (d)(1), the Secretary may
7 select a design for quarter dollars referred to in
8 subparagraph (A) in which—

9 “(i) the inscription described in the
10 second sentence of subsection (d)(1) ap-
11 pears on the reverse side of any such quar-
12 ter dollars; and

13 “(ii) any inscription described in the
14 third sentence of subsection (d)(1) or the
15 designation of the value of the coin ap-
16 pears on the obverse side of any such quar-
17 ter dollars.

18 “(2) SELECTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS
19 AND EVENTS AND DESIGN.—The designs selected for
20 the reverse of the coins described under this sub-
21 section—

22 “(A) CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS AND
23 EVENTS.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The selection of
25 prominent civil rights leaders and events

1 that have advanced civil rights in America
2 to be honored with a coin under this sub-
3 section shall be chosen by the Secretary
4 after consultation with the Congressional
5 Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic
6 Caucus, and the Congressional Asian Pa-
7 cific American Caucus.

8 “(ii) Coins may depict individuals and
9 events such as—

10 “(I) Martin Luther King, Jr.;

11 “(II) Harriet Tubman and the
12 Underground Railroad;

13 “(III) The Little Rock Nine;

14 “(IV) Rosa Parks;

15 “(V) César Chávez;

16 “(VI) Antonia Pantoja;

17 “(VII) Dionisio (Dennis) Chávez;

18 “(VIII) Patsy Mink;

19 “(IX) Philip Vera Cruz; and

20 “(X) Thurgood Marshall.

21 “(iii) No portrait of a living individual
22 shall be selected for a coin under this sub-
23 section.

1 “(iv) 40 civil rights leaders and events
2 shall be selected to be commemorated with
3 coins under this subsection.

4 “(v) The selection process under
5 clause (i) for—

6 “(I) the first 32 coin designs
7 shall be completed before the end of
8 the 2-year period beginning on the
9 date of the enactment of the Civil
10 Rights Quarter Dollar Coin Act of
11 2008; and

12 “(II) the remaining coin designs
13 shall be completed before the end of
14 the 2-year period beginning on the
15 date the first coin is issued that bears
16 the first design selected under this
17 subsection.

18 “(B) DESIGN.—Each of the designs re-
19 quired under this subsection for quarter dollars
20 shall be—

21 “(i) selected by the Secretary after
22 consultation with—

23 “(I) the Congressional Black
24 Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic

1 Caucus, and the Congressional Asian
2 Pacific American Caucus;

3 “(II) the Secretary of the Inte-
4 rior; and

5 “(III) the Commission of Fine
6 Arts;

7 “(ii) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage
8 Advisory Committee; and

9 “(iii) in the case of a design depicting
10 the contribution of an individual civil
11 rights leader, shall not depict the indi-
12 vidual in a size such that the coin could be
13 considered to be a ‘2-headed’ coin.

14 “(3) ISSUANCE OF COINS.—

15 “(A) RATE OF ISSUANCE.—The quarter
16 dollar coins bearing designs of civil rights lead-
17 ers and events under this subsection shall be
18 issued at the rate of 5 new designs during each
19 year of the period of issuance under this sub-
20 section.

21 “(B) NUMBER OF EACH OF 5 COIN DE-
22 SIGNS IN EACH YEAR.—Of the quarter dollar
23 coins issued during each year of the period of
24 issuance, the Secretary of the Treasury shall
25 prescribe, on the basis of such factors as the

1 Secretary determines to be appropriate, the
2 number of quarter dollars which shall be issued
3 with each of the designs selected for such year.

4 “(C) DURATION.—Subject to paragraph
5 (2), the program established under this sub-
6 section shall continue in effect until a each of
7 the selected civil rights leaders and events have
8 been honored with a coin.

9 “(4) 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 “(5) 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 (3) 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 (3) as the Sec-
23 retary determines to be appropriate, with a con-
24 tent of 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

1 “(6) DESIGNS AFTER END OF PROGRAM.—

2 Upon the completion of the coin program under this
3 subsection, the design on—

4 “(A) the obverse of the quarter dollar shall
5 revert to the same design containing an image
6 of President Washington in effect for the quar-
7 ter dollar before the institution of the 50-State
8 quarter dollar program; and

9 “(B) notwithstanding the fourth sentence
10 of subsection (d)(1), the reverse of the quarter
11 dollar shall contain an image of General Wash-
12 ington crossing the Delaware River prior to the
13 Battle of Trenton.”.

14 **TITLE II—BULLION INVESTMENT**
15 **PRODUCTS**

16 **SEC. 201. SILVER BULLION COIN.**

17 Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is
18 amended by inserting after subsection (t) (as added by
19 title I of this Act) the following new subsection:

20 “(u) SILVER BULLION INVESTMENT PRODUCT.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall strike
22 and make available for sale such number of bullion
23 coins as the Secretary determines to be appropriate
24 that are exact duplicates of the quarter dollars
25 issued under subsection (t), each of which shall—

1 “(A) have a diameter of 3.0 inches and
2 weigh 5.0 ounces;

3 “(B) contain .999 fine silver;

4 “(C) have incused into the edge the
5 fineness and weight of the bullion coin;

6 “(D) bear an inscription of the denomina-
7 tion of such coin, which shall be ‘Quarter Dol-
8 lar’; and

9 “(E) not be minted or issued by the
10 United States Mint as so-called ‘fractional’ bul-
11 lion coins or in any size other than the size de-
12 scribed in paragraph (A).

13 “(2) AVAILABILITY FOR SALE.—Bullion coins
14 minted under paragraph (1)—

15 “(A) shall become available for sale no
16 sooner than the first day of the calendar year
17 in which the circulating quarter dollar of which
18 such bullion coin is a duplicate is issued; and

19 “(B) may only be available for sale during
20 the year in which such circulating quarter dol-
21 lar is issued.”.

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