

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 2726

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 6, 2016

Received

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## AN ACT

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Apollo 11 50th Anni-  
3 versary Commemorative Coin Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) On July 16, 1969, the Apollo 11 spacecraft  
7 launched from Launch Complex 39A at the John F.  
8 Kennedy Space Center carrying Neil Armstrong,  
9 Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins, who would become  
10 the first of mankind to complete a crewed lunar  
11 landing.

12 (2) The United States is the only country ever  
13 to have attempted and succeeded in landing humans  
14 on a celestial body off the Earth and safely return-  
15 ing them home, completing an unprecedented engi-  
16 neering, scientific and political achievement.

17 (3) The Apollo 11 mission, culminating in  
18 man’s first steps on the Moon on July 20, 1969,  
19 honored the fallen astronauts of the Apollo 1 crew,  
20 whose innovative work and bravery will be remem-  
21 bered forever.

22 (4) Apollo 11 accomplished the national goal set  
23 forth in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, who  
24 stated at Rice University the following year, “We  
25 choose to go to the Moon. We choose to go to the  
26 Moon in this decade and do the other things, not be-

1       cause they are easy, but because they are hard, be-  
2       cause that goal will serve to organize and measure  
3       the best of our energies and skills, because that  
4       challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one  
5       we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we in-  
6       tend to win”.

7               (5) At the height of the Cold War, the Apollo  
8       space program provided the United States and the  
9       free world with a powerful symbolic win, dem-  
10      onstrating the strength, ambition, and determination  
11      of the United States in technological and economic  
12      advancement, and securing our Nation’s leadership  
13      in space for generations to come.

14              (6) The National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
15      ministration’s (referred to in this Act as “NASA”)   
16      Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala-  
17      bama, designed, assembled, and tested the most  
18      powerful launch vehicle in history, the Saturn V  
19      rocket, which was used for the Apollo missions in  
20      the 1960s and 1970s.

21              (7) The Saturn V weighed 6,200,000 pounds  
22      and generated 7,600,000 pounds of thrust, which  
23      NASA has equated to generating more power than  
24      86 Hoover Dams.

1           (8) During the time period from 1969 through  
2           1972, NASA completed eight Apollo missions and  
3           landed 12 men on the Moon. The 6 missions that  
4           landed on the Moon returned with a wealth of  
5           groundbreaking scientific data and over 800 pounds  
6           of lunar samples.

7           (9) An estimated 400,000 Americans contrib-  
8           uted to the successful program that led to the lunar  
9           landing on July 20, 1969, including NASA sci-  
10          entists, engineers, astronauts, industry contractors  
11          and their engineering and manufacturing workforce,  
12          as well as the political leadership of Republicans and  
13          Democrats in Congress and the White House.

14          (10) The Apollo program, along with its prede-  
15          cessor Mercury and Gemini programs, inspired gen-  
16          erations of American students to pursue careers in  
17          science, technology, engineering, and mathematics  
18          (STEM), which has fueled innovation and economic  
19          growth throughout a range of industries over the  
20          last four decades.

21          (11) July 20, 2019, will mark the 50th anniver-  
22          sary of the Apollo 11 landing of Neil Armstrong and  
23          Buzz Aldrin on the lunar surface.

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

2 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In recognition and celebration  
3 of the 50th anniversary of the first manned Moon landing,  
4 the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act re-  
5 ferred to as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue the fol-  
6 lowing coins:

7 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5  
8 coins, which shall—

9 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

10 (B) be struck on a planchet having a di-  
11 ameter of 0.850 inches; and

12 (C) contain not less than 90 percent gold.

13 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000  
14 \$1 coins, which shall—

15 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

16 (B) be struck on a planchet having a di-  
17 ameter of 1.500 inches; and

18 (C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

19 (3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more  
20 than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

21 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

22 (B) be struck on a planchet having a di-  
23 ameter of 1.205 inches; and

24 (C) be minted to the specifications for half-  
25 dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title  
26 31, United States Code.

1           (4) PROOF SILVER \$1 COINS.—Not more than  
2           100,000 proof \$1 silver coins which shall—

3                   (A) weigh 5 ounces;

4                   (B) be struck on a planchet having a di-  
5                   ameter of 3 inches; and

6                   (C) contain .999 fine silver.

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

10          (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
11          5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins  
12          minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-  
13          matic items.

14          (d) CONVEX SHAPE.—

15                (1) IN GENERAL.—The coins minted under this  
16                Act shall be produced in a fashion similar to the  
17                2014 National Baseball Hall of Fame 75th Anniver-  
18                sary Commemorative Coin, so that the reverse of the  
19                coin is convex to more closely resemble the visor of  
20                the astronaut's helmet of the time and the obverse  
21                concave, providing a more dramatic display of the  
22                obverse design chosen pursuant to section 4(c).

23                (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
24                Congress that, to the extent possible without signifi-  
25                cantly adding to the purchase price of the coins, the

1 coins minted under this Act should be produced with  
2 the design of the reverse of the coins continuing over  
3 what would otherwise be the edge of the coins, such  
4 that the reverse design extends all the way to the ob-  
5 verse design.

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

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The design for the coins minted  
8 under this Act shall be—

9 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation  
10 with—

11 (A) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

12 (B) with respect to the design of the re-  
13 verse of the coins, the Administrator of NASA;  
14 and

15 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory  
16 Committee.

17 (b) DESIGNATIONS AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each  
18 coin minted under this Act there shall be—

19 (1) a designation of the denomination of the  
20 coin;

21 (2) an inscription of the year “2019”; and

22 (3) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”, “In  
23 God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and  
24 “E Pluribus Unum”.

1 (c) SELECTION AND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR OB-  
2 VERSE DESIGN.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall hold a  
4 juried, compensated competition to determine the  
5 design of the common obverse of the coins minted  
6 under this Act, with such design being emblematic  
7 of the United States space program leading up to  
8 the first manned Moon landing.

9 (2) SELECTION PROCESS.—Proposals for the  
10 obverse design of coins minted under this Act may  
11 be submitted in accordance with the design selection  
12 and approval process developed by the Secretary in  
13 the sole discretion of the Secretary.

14 (3) PROPOSALS.—As part of the competition  
15 described in this subsection, the Secretary may ac-  
16 cept proposals from artists, engravers of the United  
17 States Mint, and members of the general public, and  
18 any designs submitted for the design review process  
19 described herein shall be anonymized until a final se-  
20 lection is made.

21 (4) COMPENSATION.—The Secretary shall de-  
22 termine compensation for the winning design under  
23 this subsection, which shall be not less than \$5,000.

24 (d) REVERSE DESIGN.—The design on the common  
25 reverse of the coins minted under this Act shall be a rep-



1 resentation of a close-up of the famous “Buzz Aldrin on  
2 the Moon” photograph taken July 20, 1969, that shows  
3 just the visor and part of the helmet of astronaut Buzz  
4 Aldrin, in which the visor has a mirrored finish and re-  
5 flects the image of the United States flag and the lunar  
6 lander and the remainder of the helmet has a frosted fin-  
7 ish.

8 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

9 (a) **QUALITY OF COINS.**—Except with respect to  
10 coins described under section 3(a)(4), coins minted under  
11 this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

12 (b) **PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.**—The Secretary may  
13 issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year  
14 period beginning on January 1, 2019.

15 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

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

19 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

22 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins  
23 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,  
24 winning design compensation, overhead expenses,  
25 marketing, and shipping).

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

4 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

11 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

14 (1) A surcharge of \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin.

15 (2) A surcharge of \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin  
16 described under section 3(a)(2).

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

19 (4) A surcharge of \$50 per coin for the \$1 coin  
20 described under section 3(a)(4).

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

1           (1) one half to the Smithsonian Institution’s  
2           National Air and Space Museum’s “Destination  
3           Moon” exhibit, for design, education, and installa-  
4           tion costs related to establishing and maintaining  
5           the exhibit, and for costs related to creating a trav-  
6           eling version of the exhibition;

7           (2) one quarter to the Astronauts Memorial  
8           Foundation, for costs related to the preservation,  
9           maintenance, and enhancement of the Astronauts  
10          Memorial and for promotion of space exploration  
11          through educational initiatives; and

12          (3) one quarter to the Astronaut Scholarship  
13          Foundation, to aid its missions of promoting the im-  
14          portance of science and technology to the general  
15          public and of aiding the United States in retaining  
16          its world leadership in science and technology by  
17          providing college scholarships for the very best and  
18          brightest students pursuing degrees in science, tech-  
19          nology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM).

20          (c) AUDITS.—The recipients described under sub-  
21          section (b) shall be subject to the audit requirements of  
22          section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with  
23          regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

24          (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),  
25          no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance

1 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as  
2 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin  
3 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-  
4 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual com-  
5 memorative coin program issuance limitation under sec-  
6 tion 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in ef-  
7 fect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-  
8 retary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out  
9 this subsection.

10 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

11 The Secretary shall take such actions as may be nec-  
12 essary to ensure that—

13 (1) minting and issuing coins under this Act  
14 will not result in any net cost to the United States  
15 Government; and

16 (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges,  
17 are disbursed to any recipient designated in section  
18 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of  
19 the coins authorized by this Act (including labor,  
20 materials, dies, use of machinery, winning design  
21 compensation, overhead expenses, marketing, and  
22 shipping) is recovered by the United States Treas-

1       ury, consistent with sections 5112(m) and 5134(f) of  
2       title 31, United States Code.

Passed the House of Representatives December 5,  
2016.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*