

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2189

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower and settlement of Plymouth Colony, the signing of the Mayflower Compact near Provincetown, and the role of the indigenous Wampanoag Tribes in the realization of the settlement.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 4, 2017

Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. WARREN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower and settlement of Plymouth Colony, the signing of the Mayflower Compact near Provincetown, and the role of the indigenous Wampanoag Tribes in the realization of the settlement.

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 “Plymouth 400th Anni-
5 versary Commemorative Coin Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds that—

3 (1) the arrival of the Pilgrims in Massachusetts
4 in 1620 is an important landmark event in the his-
5 tory of the United States;

6 (2) the United States is poised for an anniver-
7 sary of national and international significance, in
8 2020 with the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower’s
9 voyage, signing of the Mayflower Compact, and the
10 founding of Plymouth Colony;

11 (3) the Plymouth 400th anniversary will high-
12 light the cultural contributions and United States
13 traditions that began with the interaction of the in-
14 digenous Wampanoag and English peoples, a story
15 that significantly shaped the building of the United
16 States;

17 (4) the settlers, now known as the Pilgrims,
18 and their ship the Mayflower, have come to rep-
19 resent national and international symbols of freedom
20 and law;

21 (5) the indigenous Wampanoag people, and
22 their interaction with the Pilgrims, created an im-
23 portant legacy through their assistance and associa-
24 tion, including participation in the first shared har-
25 vest, which serves as an indelible iconic moment in
26 United States history;

1 (6) the “Mayflower Compact”, signed near
2 Provincetown before the Pilgrims explored
3 Provincetown and the rest of Cape Cod and subse-
4 quently landed in Plymouth, was the colonial corner-
5 stone for self-governance in the New World and had
6 a profound influence on later developments related
7 to the Constitution of the United States and the Bill
8 of Rights;

9 (7) the story of the Wampanoag people, the Pil-
10 grims, and the Mayflower are iconic symbols for the
11 world representing freedom, family, law, and justice;

12 (8) today, people from across the 50 States and
13 around the world visit Massachusetts to see the
14 sights of the first landing in Provincetown, early ex-
15 ploration of the New World along Cape Cod, and the
16 ultimate landing and settlement in Plymouth (com-
17 memorated by Plymouth Rock), as well as to visit
18 the recreated Mayflower and Plimoth Plantation,
19 trace their ancestry, and learn about the indigenous
20 Wampanoag and their integral role in the history of
21 the United States;

22 (9) there are more than 20,000,000 descend-
23 ants worldwide who trace their ancestry back to the
24 Mayflower passengers arriving in 1620 and on sub-
25 sequent ships in the 1620s;

1 (10) the 2 federally recognized Indian tribes in
2 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts—the
3 Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and the
4 Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe—have tribal members
5 or citizens who descend from the historical
6 Wampanoag Indian people whose sachem Massasoit
7 signed the Wampanoag Treaty of 1621;

8 (11) in 1897, the General Society of Mayflower
9 Descendants was formed with the purpose of cre-
10 ating permanent records of those with lineage to the
11 Mayflower Pilgrims and to educate the public about
12 the impact the Pilgrims had on Western civilization;

13 (12) in 2009, a nonprofit organization, Plym-
14 outh 400, Inc., was established to ensure a suitable
15 national observance of the Plymouth 400th anniver-
16 sary to include the themes of exploration, innova-
17 tion, immigration, self-governance, religious freedom,
18 and thanksgiving, which are legacies that were
19 sparked by these historic events and that continue
20 today as cornerstones of the United States;

21 (13) Plymouth 400, Inc. will lead, support, and
22 facilitate legislative and marketing efforts for a com-
23 memorative coin series, United States postage
24 stamps, and related activities for the Plymouth

1 400th anniversary observances and commemorations
2 in 2020;

3 (14) a commemorative coin series will bring na-
4 tional and international attention to the lasting leg-
5 acy of Plymouth Colony, the indigenous Wampanoag
6 tribes, and the Pilgrim settlers; and

7 (15) the proceeds from a surcharge on the sale
8 of such commemorative coins will assist the financ-
9 ing of a suitable national observance in 2020 and
10 2021 of the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim land-
11 ing and historic events, including the signing of the
12 Mayflower Compact, the first shared harvest, inter-
13 action with the indigenous Wampanoag people, and
14 other significant events of the period.

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

16 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treas-
17 ury (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”)
18 shall mint and issue the following coins:

19 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 100,000
20 \$5 coins, which shall—

21 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

22 (B) have diameter of 0.85 inches; and

23 (C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent
24 alloy.

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

3 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

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

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

8 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

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

10 (C) be minted to the specifications for half
11 dollar coins described in section 5112(b) of title
12 31, United States Code.

13 (b) 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 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
17 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins
18 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-
19 matic items.

20 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

21 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins
23 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the
24 landing and settlement of Plymouth Colony, the
25 signing of the Mayflower Compact, and the role of

1 the indigenous Wampanoag tribes in the realization
2 of the settlement.

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

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

6 (B) an inscription of the year “2020”; and

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

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

12 (1) selected by the Secretary after consulting
13 with—

14 (A) Plymouth 400, Inc.;

15 (B) the General Society of Mayflower De-
16 scendants;

17 (C) the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe;

18 (D) the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head
19 (Aquinnah);

20 (E) the Pilgrim Society;

21 (F) Plimoth Plantation, Inc.;

22 (G) the Pilgrim Monument and
23 Provincetown Museum;

24 (H) Provincetown 400;

25 (I) the Plymouth Antiquarian Society;

1 (J) the Massachusetts Cultural Council;
2 and

3 (K) the Massachusetts Historical Society;
4 and

5 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory
6 Committee.

7 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

10 (b) **MINT FACILITY.**—Only 1 facility of the United
11 States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality
12 of the coins minted under this Act.

13 (c) **PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.**—The Secretary may
14 issue coins minted under this Act only during a 1-year
15 period beginning January 1, 2020.

16 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

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

20 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

23 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins
24 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,
25 overhead expenses, 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 issued under this
13 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 (3) A surcharge of \$5 per coin for the half-dol-
17 lar coin.

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

22 (1) 30 percent of the surcharges, to Plymouth
23 400, Inc.—

24 (A) to support the work of the organiza-
25 tion to develop, implement, and provide over-

1 sight for the commemorations surrounding the
2 events of 2020 through 2021; and

3 (B) at the discretion of Plymouth 400 to
4 distribute to local historical preservation, tribal,
5 and cultural organizations to support their im-
6 portant work in educating the public about the
7 settlement of 1620, their continued existence
8 for the benefit of future generations, and other
9 related purposes;

10 (2) 5 percent of the surcharges to Plimoth
11 Plantation Inc., to support the educational programs
12 and exhibits at Plimoth Plantation that teach the
13 general public about the 17th century history of the
14 United States, including the Mayflower, the Pil-
15 grims, the Mayflower Compact, and the Native peo-
16 ple of the region;

17 (3) 20 percent of the surcharges, to the Mash-
18 pee Wampanoag Tribe, to continue programs to edu-
19 cate people about the life of the Wampanoag people
20 and Wampanoag culture, language, and history;

21 (4) 5 percent of the surcharges, to the
22 Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) to sup-
23 port programs to educate people about the life of the
24 Wampanoag people prior to the Plymouth settlement

1 and the interactions between the settlers and the
2 Wampanoag people;

3 (5) 30 percent of the surcharges, to the General
4 Society of Mayflower Descendants—

5 (A) to support the continued restoration of
6 the facilities of the General Society of
7 Mayflower Descendants in Plymouth;

8 (B) to provide funding for the General So-
9 ciety of Mayflower Descendants research library
10 in Plymouth;

11 (C) to support academic study to learn and
12 disseminate new information about the Pilgrims
13 and early colonial New England;

14 (D) to provide funding for the restoration
15 and operation of the National Pilgrim Memorial
16 Meetinghouse; and

17 (E) for educational purposes;

18 (6) 5 percent of the surcharges, to the Pilgrim
19 Society for the stewardship, conservation, and pres-
20 ervation of the collection of Pilgrim and Plymouth
21 historical materials at the Pilgrim Hall Museum, in-
22 cluding—

23 (A) the historic 1824 museum building;

24 (B) a digitization program to preserve and
25 share historical resources and build the techno-

1 logical and generational foundation for contin-
2 ued engagement with Plymouth history and the
3 Pilgrim Hall Museum;

4 (C) the development, design, and construc-
5 tion of a new museum website to serve as a dig-
6 ital gateway to museum resources;

7 (D) improvements to permanent exhibition
8 galleries and content, including greater atten-
9 tion to Wampanoag history; and

10 (E) support for educational programs and
11 educational partnerships, including a museum
12 internship program; and

13 (7) 5 percent of the surcharges to Provincetown
14 400 to—

15 (A) support the furtherance of events and
16 programs that—

17 (i) educate people about the lives of
18 the Wampanoag people and the Pilgrims
19 before and after the arrival of the
20 Mayflower to the New World; and

21 (ii) explore the themes of these his-
22 toric events that are still relevant today;
23 and

24 (B) maintain historical markers and sites
25 related to the events of 1620 and 1621.

1 (c) AUDITS.—The Comptroller General of the United
2 States shall have the right to examine such books, records,
3 documents, and other data of each of the organizations
4 referred to in subsection (b) as may be related to the ex-
5 penditures of amounts paid under such subsection.

6 (d) LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
7 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
8 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
9 of such time of issuance, the issuance of such coin would
10 result in the number of commemorative coin programs
11 issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemo-
12 rative coin program issuance limitation under section
13 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect
14 on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary
15 of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this sub-
16 section.

17 (e) EXEMPTION FROM MATCHING REQUIRE-
18 MENTS.—Section 5134(f)(1)(A)(ii) of title 31, United
19 States Code, shall not apply to the organizations referred
20 to under paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (b) with
21 respect to surcharges paid under this Act.

22 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

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

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

4 (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges,
5 are disbursed to any recipient designated in section
6 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of
7 the coins authorized by this Act (including labor,
8 materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses,
9 marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the United
10 States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m)
11 and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.

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