

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1923

To amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the Nineteenth Amendment, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 27, 2019

Ms. LEE of California (for herself and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the Nineteenth Amendment, 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 “Women’s History and
5 Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin
6 Program Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The tireless and passionate efforts of the
2 suffragists, their supporters, and other stakeholders
3 contributed to the movement to grant and protect
4 the right of all women to vote.

5 (2) On August 26, 1920, after a long campaign
6 by suffragists across the country, the United States
7 Constitution was amended with the 19th Amend-
8 ment, granting women the right to vote.

9 (3) On June 24, 1924, all Native Americans
10 were granted citizenship, and by extension the right
11 to vote.

12 (4) In 1948, the legal victories of Native Amer-
13 ican veterans granted protections for the right of all
14 Native men and women to vote.

15 (5) On June 27, 1952, the Immigration and
16 Nationality Act of 1952 was enacted, granting citi-
17 zenship to all individuals of Asian descent, and by
18 extension, the right to vote.

19 (6) Enactment of the Voting Rights Act of
20 1965 on August 6, 1965, granted Black women pro-
21 tections to overcome the legal barriers that pre-
22 vented many from exercising their right to vote even
23 though all Blacks had been granted citizenship in
24 1868 with ratification of the 14th Amendment.

1 (7) On August 6, 1975, the amendments to the
2 reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 re-
3 moved language barriers to mitigate discrimination
4 against Hispanic, Asian, and Native American vot-
5 ers.

6 (8) It was not until March 29, 1961, when the
7 23rd Amendment passed that women in Washington,
8 DC, were allowed to vote in all elections.

9 (9) Women’s history and the movement for
10 women’s rights that the suffragists began extends
11 beyond ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment.

12 (10) August 26, 2020, marks the centennial of
13 the day that women were granted the right to vote
14 in America.

15 **SEC. 3. ISSUANCE OF COINS COMMEMORATING THE NINE-**
16 **TEENTH AMENDMENT.**

17 (a) AMENDMENT TO NATIONAL SITES QUARTER
18 DOLLAR PROGRAM.—Subsection (t) of section 5112 of
19 title 31, United States Code, is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “Notwith-
21 standing the fourth sentence of subsection (d)(1)
22 and subsection (d)(2)” and inserting “Subject to
23 paragraph (8), and notwithstanding the fourth sen-
24 tence of subsection (d)(1) and subsection (d)(2)”;

1 (2) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the
2 following:

3 “(7) PERIOD OF ISSUANCE.—Subject to para-
4 graph (2), the program established under this sub-
5 section shall continue in effect until a national site
6 in each State has been honored and shall terminate
7 not later than March 31, 2021.”; and

8 (3) by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the
9 following:

10 “(8) DESIGNS STARTING ON JANUARY 1, 2021.—

11 “(A) TRANSITION PERIOD.—The design of
12 the quarter dollar from January 1, 2021, to
13 March 31, 2021, shall be as follows:

14 “(i) On January 1, 2021, the design
15 shall be the final design of the national
16 sites program established by this sub-
17 section.

18 “(ii) On a date selected by the Sec-
19 retary that is not earlier than January 15,
20 2021, and not later than March 31, 2021,
21 the design shall be the first design selected
22 pursuant to the program described in sub-
23 section (x).

24 “(B) DESIGN AFTER END OF PROGRAM.—

25 As of April 1, 2021, the design of the quarter

1 dollar shall be in accordance with subsection
2 (x).”.

3 (b) ISSUANCE OF COINS COMMEMORATING THE
4 NINETEENTH AMENDMENT.—Section 5112 of title 31,
5 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
6 following:

7 “(x) REDESIGN AND ISSUANCE OF QUARTER DOL-
8 LARS COMMEMORATING THE RATIFICATION OF THE
9 NINETEENTH AMENDMENT.—

10 “(1) REDESIGN BEGINNING IN 2021.—Notwith-
11 standing the fourth sentence of subsection (d)(1)
12 and subsection (d)(2), quarter dollars issued during
13 the period beginning on the date described in sub-
14 section (t)(8)(A)(ii) and ending on the date de-
15 scribed in paragraph (8) shall have designs on the
16 reverse selected in accordance with this subsection.

17 “(2) NINETEENTH AMENDMENT QUARTER DOL-
18 LAR DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

19 “(A) FLEXIBILITY WITH REGARD TO
20 PLACEMENT OF INSCRIPTIONS.—Notwith-
21 standing subsection (d)(1), the Secretary may
22 select a design for quarter dollars described in
23 paragraph (1) in which—

24 “(i) the inscription described in the
25 second sentence of subsection (d)(1) ap-

1 pears on the reverse side of any such quar-
2 ter dollars; and

3 “(ii) any inscription described in the
4 third sentence of subsection (d)(1) or the
5 designation of the value of the coin ap-
6 pears on the obverse side of any such quar-
7 ter dollars.

8 “(B) SINGLE PROMINENT AMERICAN
9 WOMAN.—Notwithstanding subsection (d)(1),
10 the design on the reverse of each coin issued
11 under this subsection shall—

12 “(i) be emblematic of the accomplish-
13 ments and contributions of a prominent
14 woman who was a resident of a State, the
15 District of Columbia, or a territory;

16 “(ii) bear the name of the prominent
17 woman and the State, District of Colum-
18 bia, or territory; and

19 “(iii) bear other appropriate inscrip-
20 tions.

21 “(3) ISSUANCE OF COINS DURING EACH
22 YEAR.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The designs for the
24 quarter dollar coins issued during each year of
25 the period referred to in paragraph (1) shall be

1 emblematic of the accomplishments and con-
2 tributions of a prominent woman from a max-
3 imum of 5 States, the District of Columbia, or
4 territories.

5 “(B) ORDER OF ISSUANCE.—The quarter
6 dollar coins issued during each year of the pe-
7 riod referred to in paragraph (1) shall be issued
8 in alphabetical order of the area represented,
9 starting with Alabama.

10 “(C) NUMBER OF EACH OF COIN DESIGNS
11 IN EACH YEAR.—The Secretary shall prescribe
12 the number of quarter dollars which shall be
13 issued with each of the designs selected for each
14 year.

15 “(4) SELECTION OF DESIGN.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each of the designs
17 required under this subsection for quarter dol-
18 lar coins shall—

19 “(i) be determined by the Secretary
20 after consultation with the Commission of
21 Fine Arts;

22 “(ii) be reviewed by the Citizens Coin-
23 age Advisory Committee; and

24 “(iii) honor or commemorate a woman
25 who has made significant contributions to

1 the lives of individuals of the applicable
2 State, the District of Columbia, or terri-
3 tory.

4 “(B) SELECTION AND APPROVAL PROC-
5 ESS.—Designs for quarter dollars may be sub-
6 mitted in accordance with the design selection
7 and approval process developed by the Sec-
8 retary.

9 “(C) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall
10 include in design development, to the greatest
11 extent practicable, input by—

12 “(i) the chief executive of the applica-
13 ble State, District of Columbia, or terri-
14 tory;

15 “(ii) engravers of the United States
16 Mint;

17 “(iii) members of the general public
18 from groups or organizations that are pur-
19 suing a mission focused on increasing the
20 inclusion of women or improving the qual-
21 ity of life for women; and

22 “(iv) women’s groups and organiza-
23 tions within the applicable State, the Dis-
24 trict of Columbia, or territory being com-
25 memorated that are pursuing a mission fo-

1 cused on increasing the inclusion of
2 women, or improving the quality of life for
3 women.

4 “(D) STANDARDS.—Because it is impor-
5 tant that the Nation’s coinage and currency
6 bear dignified designs of which the citizens of
7 the United States can be proud, the Secretary
8 shall not select any frivolous or inappropriate
9 design for any coin minted under this sub-
10 section.

11 “(E) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN REP-
12 RESENTATIONS.—The design of any quarter
13 dollar under this subsection may not include—

14 “(i) a head and shoulders portrait or
15 bust of any person, living or dead;

16 “(ii) a portrait of a living person; or

17 “(iii) a depiction of an individual in a
18 size such that the coin could be considered
19 to be a ‘2-headed’ coin.

20 “(F) RELEASE OF DESIGNS.—Not later
21 than December 31, 2020, the Secretary shall
22 identify the first 5 women to be honored.

23 “(5) TREATMENT AS NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For
24 purposes of sections 5134 and 5136, all coins de-

scribed under this subsection shall be considered to be numismatic items.

“(6) ISSUANCE.—

“(A) QUALITY OF COINS.—The Secretary may mint and issue such number of quarter dollars of each design selected under paragraph (4) in uncirculated and proof qualities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(B) SILVER COINS.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), the Secretary may mint and issue such number of quarter dollars of each design selected under paragraph (4) as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, with a content of not less than 90 percent silver.

“(7) APPLICATION IN EVENT OF THE ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL STATE.—If any additional State is admitted into the Union before the termination date described in paragraph (8), the Secretary may issue quarter dollar coins, in accordance with this subsection, with a design which is emblematic of such State during any 1 year of the period described in paragraph (1), in addition to the quarter dollar coins issued during such year in accordance with paragraph (3)(A).

1 “(8) TERMINATION DATE.—The authority to
2 mint quarter dollar coins pursuant to this subsection
3 shall terminate on December 31 of the year in which
4 the final State or territory has been commemorated
5 with a design pursuant to paragraph (3).

6 “(9) DESIGNS AFTER END OF PROGRAM.—On
7 the first day of the year following the year of the
8 date described in paragraph (8)—

9 “(A) the design on the obverse of the quar-
10 ter dollar shall revert to the same design con-
11 taining an image of President Washington in
12 effect for the quarter dollar before the institu-
13 tion of the 50-State quarter dollar program;
14 and

15 “(B) notwithstanding the fourth sentence
16 of subsection (d)(1), the design on the reverse
17 of the quarter dollar shall contain an image of
18 General Washington crossing the Delaware
19 River prior to the Battle of Trenton.

20 “(10) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

21 “(A) The term ‘territory’ means the Com-
22 monwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American
23 Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and
24 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
25 lands.

1 “(B) The term ‘resident’, with respect to a
 2 State, the District of Columbia, or a territory,
 3 means that a woman resided in such State, the
 4 District of Columbia, or such territory for a pe-
 5 riod of at least 1 consecutive year.

6 “(y) SILVER BULLION INVESTMENT PRODUCT.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall strike
 8 and make available for sale such number of bullion
 9 coins as the Secretary determines to be appropriate
 10 that are exact duplicates of the quarter dollars
 11 issued under subsection (x), each of which shall—

12 “(A) have a diameter of 3.0 inches and
 13 weigh 5.0 ounces;

14 “(B) contain .999 fine silver;

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

17 “(D) bear an inscription of the denomina-
 18 tion of such coin, which shall be ‘quarter dol-
 19 lar’; and

20 “(E) not be minted or issued by the
 21 United States Mint as so-called ‘fractional’ bul-
 22 lion coins or in any size other than the size de-
 23 scribed in subparagraph (A).

24 “(2) AVAILABILITY FOR SALE.—Bullion coins
 25 minted under paragraph (1) shall become available

1 for sale no sooner than the first day of the calendar
2 year in which the circulating quarter dollar coins of
3 which such bullion coins are a duplicate are issued.”.

4 **SEC. 4. COLLECTION AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, 2020, the
6 Secretary of the Treasury shall initiate a program to pro-
7 mote the collection of, and recognition of the subjects of,
8 the coins authorized under the amendments made by this
9 Act.

10 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall conduct
11 a study on the progress of the program described in sub-
12 section (a).

13 (c) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit a report to
14 the Congress on the results of the study conducted pursu-
15 ant to subsection (b).

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