

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2427

To amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2019

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, 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”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

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

7 (2) On August 26, 1920, after a long campaign
8 by suffragists across the country, the Constitution of
9 the United States was amended by means of the
10 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to
11 vote.

12 (3) On June 24, 1924, all Native Americans
13 were granted citizenship and, by extension, the right
14 to vote.

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

18 (5) On June 27, 1952, the Immigration and
19 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) was enacted,
20 which granted citizenship to all individuals of Asian
21 descent and, by extension, the right to vote.

22 (6) Enactment of the Voting Rights Act of
23 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) on August 6, 1965,
24 granted Black women protections to overcome the
25 legal barriers that prevented many from exercising
26 their right to vote even though all Blacks had been

1 granted citizenship in 1868 with ratification of the
2 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United
3 States.

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

9 (8) Women’s history and the movement for
10 women’s rights that the suffragists began extends
11 beyond ratification of the 19th Amendment to the
12 Constitution of the United States.

13 (9) August 26, 2020, marks the centennial of
14 the day that women were granted the right to vote
15 in the United States.

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

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

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

6 “(A) the date on which a national site in
7 each State has been honored; or

8 “(B) March 31, 2021.”; and

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

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

12 “(A) TRANSITION PERIOD.—The design of
13 the quarter dollar during the period beginning
14 on January 1, 2021, and ending on December
15 31, 2021, shall be as follows:

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

20 “(ii) On a date selected by the Sec-
21 retary that is not earlier than January 15,
22 2021, and not later than December 31,
23 2021, the design shall be the first design
24 selected pursuant to the program estab-
25 lished under subsection (x).

1 “(B) DESIGN AFTER END OF PROGRAM.—
2 Beginning on August 1, 2021, the design of the
3 quarter dollar shall be in accordance with sub-
4 section (x).”.

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

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

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

19 “(2) NINETEENTH AMENDMENT QUARTER DOL-
20 LAR DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

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

1 “(i) the inscription described in the
2 second sentence of subsection (d)(1) ap-
3 pears on the reverse side of each such
4 quarter dollar; and

5 “(ii) any inscription described in the
6 third sentence of subsection (d)(1) or the
7 designation of the value of the coin ap-
8 pears on the obverse side of each such
9 quarter dollar.

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

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

18 “(ii) bear the name of the prominent
19 woman selected under clause (i) and the
20 State, District of Columbia, or territory;
21 and

22 “(iii) bear other appropriate inscrip-
23 tions.

24 “(3) ISSUANCE OF COINS DURING EACH
25 YEAR.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The designs for the
2 quarter dollar coins issued during each year of
3 the period described in paragraph (1) shall be
4 emblematic of a maximum of 5 States, the Dis-
5 trict of Columbia, or territories.

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

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

16 “(4) SELECTION OF DESIGN.—

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

20 “(i) be determined by the Secretary
21 after—

22 “(I) submission of a rec-
23 ommendation from the chief executive
24 of the applicable State, the District of

1 Columbia, or territory being com-
2 memorated; and

3 “(II) consultation with the Com-
4 mission of Fine Arts;

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

7 “(iii) honor or commemorate a woman
8 who has made significant contributions to
9 the lives of individuals of the applicable
10 State, the District of Columbia, or terri-
11 tory.

12 “(B) SELECTION AND APPROVAL PROC-
13 ESS.—Designs for quarter dollars may be sub-
14 mitted in accordance with the design selection
15 and approval process developed by the Sec-
16 retary.

17 “(C) PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall
18 include in design development, to the greatest
19 extent practicable, input by—

20 “(i) the chief executive of the applica-
21 ble State, District of Columbia, or terri-
22 tory;

23 “(ii) artists from the States, the Dis-
24 trict of Columbia, and territories;

1 “(iii) engravers of the United States
2 Mint;

3 “(iv) members of the general public
4 from groups or organizations that are pur-
5 suing a mission focused on increasing the
6 inclusion of women or improving the qual-
7 ity of life for women; and

8 “(v) women’s groups and organiza-
9 tions within the applicable State, the Dis-
10 trict of Columbia, or territory being com-
11 memorated that are pursuing a mission fo-
12 cused on increasing the inclusion of women
13 or improving the quality of life for women.

14 “(D) STANDARDS.—Because it is impor-
15 tant that the coinage and currency of the
16 United States bear dignified designs of which
17 the citizens of the United States can be proud,
18 the Secretary may not select any frivolous or in-
19 appropriate design for any coin minted under
20 this subsection.

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

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

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

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

5 “(F) RELEASE OF DESIGNS.—Not later
6 than August 31, 2020, the Secretary shall iden-
7 tify the first 5 women to be honored under this
8 subsection.

9 “(5) 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 “(6) 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 (4) 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 (4) as the Sec-
23 retary determines to be appropriate, with a con-
24 tent of not less than 90 percent silver.

1 “(7) APPLICATION IN EVENT OF THE ADMIS-
2 SION OF ADDITIONAL STATE.—If any additional
3 State is admitted into the Union before the termi-
4 nation date described in paragraph (8), the Sec-
5 retary may issue quarter dollar coins, in accordance
6 with this subsection, with a design that is emblem-
7 atic of such State during any 1 year of the period
8 described in paragraph (1), in addition to the quar-
9 ter dollar coins issued during that year in accord-
10 ance with paragraph (3)(A).

11 “(8) TERMINATION DATE.—The authority to
12 issue quarter dollar coins under this subsection shall
13 terminate on December 31 of the year in which the
14 final State or territory has been commemorated with
15 a design pursuant to paragraph (3).

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

19 “(A) the design on the obverse of the quar-
20 ter dollar shall revert to the same design con-
21 taining an image of President Washington in
22 effect for the quarter dollar before the institu-
23 tion of the 50-State quarter dollar program;
24 and

1 “(B) notwithstanding the fourth sentence
2 of subsection (d)(1), the design on the reverse
3 of the quarter dollar shall contain an image of
4 General Washington crossing the Delaware
5 River prior to the Battle of Trenton.

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

7 “(A) RESIDENT.—The term ‘resident’,
8 with respect to a State, the District of Colum-
9 bia, or a territory, means that a woman resided
10 in that State, the District of Columbia, or that
11 territory for a period of not less than 1 con-
12 secutive year.

13 “(B) TERRITORY.—The term ‘territory’
14 means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,
15 Guam, American Samoa, the United States Vir-
16 gin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the
17 Northern Mariana Islands.

18 “(y) SILVER BULLION INVESTMENT PRODUCT.—

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

24 “(A) have a diameter of 3.0 inches and
25 weigh 5.0 ounces;

1 “(B) contain .999 fine silver;

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

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

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

11 “(2) AVAILABILITY FOR SALE.—Bullion coins
12 minted under paragraph (1)—

13 “(A) shall become available for sale not
14 earlier than the first day of the calendar year
15 in which the circulating quarter dollar coins of
16 which such bullion coins are a duplicate are
17 issued; and

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

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

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 1, 2019,
23 the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this section
24 as the “Secretary”) shall initiate a program to promote

1 the collection of, and recognition of the subjects of, the
2 coins authorized under the amendments made by this Act.

3 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall conduct
4 a study on the progress of the program described in sub-
5 section (a).

6 (c) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2023, the
7 Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the results
8 of the study conducted under subsection (b).

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