

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6184

To provide for a program for circulating quarter dollar coins that are emblematic of a national park or other national site in each State, the District of Columbia, and each territory of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2008

Mr. CASTLE (for himself, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. GUTIERREZ) 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 a national park or other national site in each State, the District of Columbia, and each territory 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 “America’s Beautiful
5 National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008”.

TITLE I—NATIONAL SITE QUARTER DOLLARS

SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Yellowstone National Park was established by an Act signed by President Ulysses S. Grant on March 1, 1872, as the Nation's first national park.

(2) The summer and autumn of 1890 saw the establishment of a number of national sites:

(A) August 19: Chickamauga and Chattanooga established as national military parks in Georgia and Tennessee.

(B) August 30: Antietam established as a national battlefield site in Maryland.

(C) September 25: Sequoia National Park established in California.

(D) September 27: Rock Creek Park established in the District of Columbia.

(E) October 1: General Grant National Park established in California (and subsequently incorporated in Kings Canyon National Park).

(F) October 1: Yosemite National Park established in California.

1 (3) Theodore Roosevelt was this nation’s 26th
2 President and is considered by many to be our
3 “Conservationist President”.

4 (4) As a frequent visitor to the West, Theodore
5 Roosevelt witnessed the virtual destruction of some
6 big game species and the overgrazing that destroyed
7 the grasslands and with them the habitats for small
8 mammals and songbirds and conservation increas-
9 ingly became one of his major concerns.

10 (5) When he became President in 1901, Roo-
11 sevelt pursued this interest in conservation by estab-
12 lishing the first 51 Bird Reserves, 4 Game Pre-
13 serves, and 150 National Forests.

14 (6) He also established the United States For-
15 est Service, signed into law the creation of 5 Na-
16 tional Parks, and signed the Act for the Preserva-
17 tion of American Antiquities in 1906 under which he
18 proclaimed 18 national monuments.

19 (7) Approximately 230,000,000 acres of area
20 within the United States was placed under public
21 protection by Theodore Roosevelt.

22 (8) Theodore Roosevelt said that nothing short
23 of defending this country in wartime “compares in
24 importance with the great central task of leaving

1 this land even a better land for our descendants
2 than it is for us”.

3 (9) The National Park Service was created by
4 an Act signed by President Woodrow Wilson on Au-
5 gust 25, 1916.

6 (10) The National Park System comprises 391
7 areas covering more than 84,000,000 acres in every
8 State (except Delaware), the District of Columbia,
9 American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Vir-
10 gin Islands.

11 (11) The sites or areas within the National
12 Park System vary widely in size and type from vast
13 natural wilderness to birthplaces of Presidents to
14 world heritage archaeology sites to an African burial
15 ground memorial in Manhattan and include national
16 parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, his-
17 torical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores,
18 recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the
19 White House.

20 (12) In addition to the sites within the National
21 Park System, the United States has placed numer-
22 ous other types of sites under various forms of con-
23 servancy, such as the national forests and sites with-
24 in the National Wildlife Refuge System and on the
25 National Register of Historic Places.

1 **SEC. 102. ISSUANCE OF REDESIGNED QUARTER DOLLARS**
2 **EMBLEMATIC OF NATIONAL PARKS OR**
3 **OTHER NATIONAL SITES IN EACH STATE, THE**
4 **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND EACH TERRI-**
5 **TORY.**

6 Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is
7 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(t) REDESIGN AND ISSUANCE OF QUARTER DOL-
10 LARS EMBLEMATIC OF NATIONAL SITES IN EACH STATE,
11 THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND EACH TERRITORY.—

12 “(1) REDESIGN BEGINNING UPON COMPLETION
13 OF PRIOR PROGRAM.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the
15 fourth sentence of subsection (d)(1) and sub-
16 section (d)(2), quarter dollars issued beginning
17 in 2010 shall have designs on the reverse se-
18 lected in accordance with this subsection which
19 are emblematic of the national sites in the
20 States, the District of Columbia and the terri-
21 tories of the United States.

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

1 “(i) the inscription described in the
 2 second sentence of subsection (d)(1) ap-
 3 pears on the reverse side of any such quar-
 4 ter dollars; 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 any such quar-
 9 ter dollars.

10 “(C) INCLUSION OF DISTRICT OF COLUM-
 11 BIA, AND TERRITORIES.—For purposes of this
 12 subsection, the term ‘State’ has the same mean-
 13 ing as in section 3(a)(3) of the Federal Deposit
 14 Insurance Act.

15 “(2) SINGLE SITE IN EACH STATE.—The design
 16 on the reverse side of each quarter dollar issued dur-
 17 ing the period of issuance under this subsection shall
 18 be emblematic of 1 national site in each State.

19 “(3) SELECTION OF SITE AND DESIGN.—

20 “(A) SITE.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The selection of a
 22 national park or other national site in each
 23 State to be honored with a coin under this
 24 subsection shall be made by the Secretary
 25 of the Treasury, after consultation with

1 the Secretary of the Interior and the gov-
2 ernor or other chief executive of each State
3 with respect to which a coin is to be issued
4 under this subsection, and after giving full
5 and thoughtful consideration to national
6 sites that are not under the jurisdiction of
7 the Secretary of the Interior so that the
8 national site chosen for each State shall be
9 the most appropriate in terms of natural
10 or historic significance.

11 “(ii) TIMING.—The selection process
12 under clause (i) shall be completed before
13 the end of the 270-day period beginning on
14 the date of the enactment of the America’s
15 Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar
16 Coin Act of 2008.

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

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

22 “(I) the Secretary of the Interior;

23 and

24 “(II) the Commission of Fine

25 Arts; and

1 “(ii) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage
2 Advisory Committee.

3 “(C) SELECTION AND APPROVAL PROC-
4 ESS.—Recommendations for site selections and
5 designs for quarter dollars may be submitted in
6 accordance with the site and design selection
7 and approval process developed by the Sec-
8 retary in the sole discretion of the Secretary.

9 “(D) PARTICIPATION IN DESIGN.—The
10 Secretary may include participation by officials
11 of the State, artists from the State, engravers
12 of the United States Mint, and members of the
13 general public.

14 “(E) STANDARDS.—Because it is impor-
15 tant that the Nation’s coinage and currency
16 bear dignified designs of which the citizens of
17 the United States can be proud, the Secretary
18 shall not select any frivolous or inappropriate
19 design for any quarter dollar minted under this
20 subsection.

21 “(F) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN REP-
22 RESENTATIONS.—No head and shoulders por-
23 trait or bust of any person, living or dead, no
24 portrait of a living person, and no outline or
25 map of a State may be included in the design

1 on the reverse of any quarter dollar under this
2 subsection.

3 “(4) ISSUANCE OF COINS.—

4 “(A) ORDER OF ISSUANCE.—The quarter
5 dollar coins issued under this subsection bear-
6 ing designs of national sites shall be issued in
7 the order in which the sites selected under
8 paragraph (3) were first established as a na-
9 tional site.

10 “(B) RATE OF ISSUANCE.—The quarter
11 dollar coins bearing designs of national sites
12 under this subsection shall be issued at the rate
13 of 5 new designs during each year of the period
14 of issuance under this subsection.

15 “(C) NUMBER OF EACH OF 5 COIN DE-
16 SIGNS IN EACH YEAR.—Of the quarter dollar
17 coins issued during each year of the period of
18 issuance, the Secretary of the Treasury shall
19 prescribe, on the basis of such factors as the
20 Secretary determines to be appropriate, the
21 number of quarter dollars which shall be issued
22 with each of the designs selected for such year.

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

1 ed under this subsection shall be considered to be
2 numismatic items.

3 “(6) ISSUANCE.—

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

9 “(B) SILVER COINS.—Notwithstanding
10 subsection (b), the Secretary may mint and
11 issue such number of quarter dollars of each
12 design selected under paragraph (3) as the Sec-
13 retary determines to be appropriate, with a con-
14 tent of 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

15 “(7) PERIOD OF ISSUANCE.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph
17 (2), the program established under this sub-
18 section shall continue in effect until a national
19 site in each State has been honored.

20 “(B) SECOND ROUND AT DISCRETION OF
21 SECRETARY.—

22 “(i) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary
23 may make a determination before the end
24 of the 9-year period beginning when the
25 first quarter dollar is issued under this

1 subsection to continue the period of
2 issuance until a second national site in
3 each State, the District of Columbia, and
4 each territory referred to in this subsection
5 has been honored with a design on a quar-
6 ter dollar.

7 “(ii) NOTICE AND REPORT.—Within
8 30 days after making a determination
9 under clause (i), the Secretary shall submit
10 a written report on such determination to
11 the Committee on Financial Services of the
12 House of Representatives and the Com-
13 mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban
14 Affairs of the Senate.

15 “(iii) APPLICABILITY OF PROVI-
16 SIONS.—If the Secretary makes a deter-
17 mination under clause (i), the provisions of
18 this subsection applicable to site and de-
19 sign selection and approval, the order, tim-
20 ing, and conditions of issuance shall apply
21 in like manner as the initial issuance of
22 quarter dollars under this subsection, ex-
23 cept that the issuance of quarter dollars
24 pursuant to such determination bearing
25 the first design shall commence in order

1 immediately following the last issuance of
2 quarter dollars under the first round.

3 “(iv) CONTINUATION UNTIL ALL
4 STATES ARE HONORED.—If the Secretary
5 makes a determination under clause (i),
6 the program under this subsection shall
7 continue until a second site in each State
8 has been so honored.

9 “(8) DESIGNS AFTER END OF PROGRAM.—
10 Upon the completion of the coin program under this
11 subsection, the design on—

12 “(A) the obverse of the quarter dollar shall
13 revert to the same design containing an image
14 of President Washington in effect for the quar-
15 ter dollar before the institution of the 50-State
16 quarter dollar program; and

17 “(B) notwithstanding the fourth sentence
18 of subsection (d)(1), the reverse of the quarter
19 dollar shall contain an image of General Wash-
20 ington crossing the Delaware River prior to the
21 Battle of Trenton.

22 “(9) NATIONAL SITE.—For purposes of this
23 subsection, the term ‘national site’ means any site
24 under the supervision, management, or conservancy
25 of the National Park Service, the United States For-

1 est Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife
 2 Service, or any similar department or agency of the
 3 Federal Government, including any national park,
 4 national monument, national battlefield, national
 5 military park, national historical park, national his-
 6 toric site, national lakeshore, seashore, recreation
 7 area, parkway, scenic river, or trail and any site in
 8 the National Wildlife Refuge System.

9 “(10) APPLICATION IN EVENT OF INDEPEND-
 10 ENCE.—If any territory becomes independent or oth-
 11 erwise ceases to be a territory or possession of the
 12 United States before quarter dollars bearing designs
 13 which are emblematic of such territory are minted
 14 pursuant to this subsection, this subsection shall
 15 cease to apply with respect to such territory.”.

16 **TITLE II—BULLION INVESTMENT** 17 **PRODUCTS**

18 **SEC. 201. SILVER BULLION COIN.**

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

22 “(u) SILVER BULLION INVESTMENT PRODUCT.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall strike
 24 and make available for sale such number of bullion
 25 coins as the Secretary determines to be appropriate

1 that are exact duplicates of the quarter dollars
2 issued under subsection (t), each of which shall—

3 “(A) have a diameter of 3.0 inches and
4 weigh 5.0 ounces;

5 “(B) contain .999 fine silver;

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

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

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

15 “(2) AVAILABILITY FOR SALE.—Bullion coins
16 minted under paragraph (1)—

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

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

24 “(3) DISTRIBUTION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the au-
2 thorized dealers utilized by the Secretary in dis-
3 tributing bullion coins and solely for purposes
4 of distributing bullion coins issued under this
5 subsection, the Director of the National Park
6 Service, or the designee of the Director, may
7 purchase numismatic items issued under this
8 subsection, but only in units of no fewer than
9 1,000 at a time, and the Director, or the Direc-
10 tor’s designee, may resell or repackage such nu-
11 ismatic items as the Director determines to be
12 appropriate.

13 “(B) RESALE.—The Director of the Na-
14 tional Park Service, or the designee of the Di-
15 rector, may resell, at cost and without repack-
16 aging, numismatic items acquired by the Direc-
17 tor or such designee under subparagraph (A) to
18 any party affiliated with any national site hon-
19 ored by a quarter dollar under subsection (t)
20 for repackaging and resale by such party in the
21 same manner and to the same extent as such
22 party would be authorized to engage in such ac-
23 tivities under subparagraph (A) if the party

1 were acting as the designee of the Director
2 under such subparagraph.”.

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