

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2957

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.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 19, 2016

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) on July 16, 1969, the Apollo 11 spacecraft  
9 launched from Launch Complex 39–A at the John

1 F. Kennedy Space Center carrying Neil Armstrong,  
2 Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, and Michael Collins, who  
3 would become the first of human kind to complete  
4 a crewed lunar landing;

5 (2) the United States is the only country ever  
6 to have attempted and succeeded in landing humans  
7 on a celestial body off the Earth and safely return-  
8 ing them home, completing an unprecedented engi-  
9 neering, scientific and political achievement;

10 (3) the Apollo 11 mission, culminating in hu-  
11 manity’s first steps on the Moon on July 20, 1969,  
12 honored the fallen astronauts of the Apollo 1 crew,  
13 whose innovative work and bravery will be remem-  
14 bered forever;

15 (4) Apollo 11 accomplished the national goal set  
16 forth in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, who  
17 stated at Rice University the following year, “We  
18 choose to go to the Moon. We choose to go to the  
19 Moon in this decade and do the other things, not be-  
20 cause they are easy, but because they are hard, be-  
21 cause that goal will serve to organize and measure  
22 the best of our energies and skills, because that  
23 challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one  
24 we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we in-  
25 tend to win”;

1           (5) at the height of the Cold War, the Apollo  
2 space program provided the United States and the  
3 free world with a powerful symbolic win, dem-  
4 onstrating the strength, ambition, and determination  
5 of the United States in technological and economic  
6 advancement, and securing our Nation’s leadership  
7 in space for generations to come;

8           (6) the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-  
9 istration (referred to in this Act as “NASA”) devel-  
10 oped the most powerful launch vehicle in history, the  
11 Saturn V rocket, which was used for the Apollo mis-  
12 sions in the 1960s and 1970s;

13           (7) the Saturn V weighed 6,200,000 pounds  
14 and generated 7,600,000 million pounds of thrust,  
15 which NASA has equated to generating more power  
16 than 86 Hoover Dams;

17           (8) during the time period from 1969 through  
18 1972, NASA completed 8 Apollo missions and land-  
19 ed 12 men on the Moon;

20           (9) the 6 missions that landed on the Moon re-  
21 turned with a wealth of groundbreaking scientific  
22 data and over 800 pounds of lunar samples;

23           (10) an estimated 400,000 Americans contrib-  
24 uted to the successful program that led to the lunar  
25 landing on July 20, 1969, including NASA sci-

1       entists, engineers, astronauts, industry contractors  
2       and their engineering and manufacturing workforce,  
3       as well as the political leadership of Republicans and  
4       Democrats in Congress and the White House;

5           (11) the Apollo program, along with its prede-  
6       cessor Mercury and Gemini programs, inspired gen-  
7       erations of American students to pursue careers in  
8       science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,  
9       which has fueled innovation and economic growth  
10      throughout a range of industries over the last 4 dec-  
11      ades; and

12           (12) July 20, 2019, will mark the 50th anniver-  
13      sary of the Apollo 11 landing of Neil Armstrong and  
14      Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin on the lunar surface.

15   **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

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

21           (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5  
22      coins, which shall—

23                   (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

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

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

2 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000

3 \$1 coins, which shall—

4 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

7 (C) contain at least 90 percent silver.

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

10 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

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

13 (C) be minted to the specifications for half-  
14 dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title  
15 31, United States Code.

16 (4) PROOF SILVER \$1 COINS.—Not more than  
17 100,000 proof \$1 silver coins which shall—

18 (A) weigh 5 ounces;

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

21 (C) contain .999 fine silver.

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

1 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
2 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins  
3 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-  
4 matic items.

5 (d) CONVEX SHAPE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The coins minted under this  
7 Act shall be produced in a fashion similar to the  
8 2014 National Baseball Hall of Fame 75th Anniver-  
9 sary Commemorative Coin, so that the reverse of the  
10 coin is convex to more closely resemble the faceplate  
11 of the astronaut’s helmet of the time and the ob-  
12 verse concave, providing a more dramatic display of  
13 the obverse design chosen pursuant to section 4(c).

14 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
15 Congress that, to the extent possible without signifi-  
16 cantly adding to the purchase price of the coins, the  
17 coins minted under this Act should be produced with  
18 the design of the reverse of the coins continuing over  
19 what would otherwise be the edge of the coins, such  
20 that the reverse design extends all the way to the ob-  
21 verse design.

22 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

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

1           (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation  
2 with—

3                   (A) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

4                   (B) with respect to the design of the re-  
5 verse of the coins, the Administrator of NASA;  
6 and

7           (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory  
8 Committee.

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

11           (1) a designation of the denomination of the  
12 coin;

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

14           (3) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”, “In  
15 God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and  
16 “E Pluribus Unum”.

17           (c) SELECTION AND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR OB-  
18 VERSE DESIGN.—

19           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall hold a  
20 juried, compensated competition to determine the  
21 design of the common obverse of the coins minted  
22 under this Act, with such design being emblematic  
23 of the United States space program leading up to  
24 the first manned Moon landing.

1           (2) SELECTION PROCESS.—Proposals for the  
2           obverse design of coins minted under this Act may  
3           be submitted in accordance with the design selection  
4           and approval process developed by the Secretary in  
5           the sole discretion of the Secretary.

6           (3) PROPOSALS.—As part of the competition  
7           described in this subsection, the Secretary may ac-  
8           cept proposals from artists, engravers of the United  
9           States Mint, and members of the general public, and  
10          any designs submitted for the design review process  
11          described herein shall be anonymized until a final se-  
12          lection is made.

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

16          (d) REVERSE DESIGN.—The design on the common  
17          reverse of the coins minted under this Act shall be a rep-  
18          resentation of a close-up of the famous “Buzz Aldrin on  
19          the Moon” photograph taken July 20, 1969, showing just  
20          the visor and part of the helmet of astronaut Edwin  
21          “Buzz” Aldrin, in which the visor reflects the image of  
22          the United States flag, astronaut Neil Armstrong, and the  
23          lunar lander.



1 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

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

8 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

9 (a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act  
10 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum  
11 of—

12 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

15 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins  
16 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,  
17 winning design compensation, overhead expenses,  
18 marketing, and shipping).

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

22 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

4 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

18          (1) One half to the Smithsonian Institution's  
19          National Air and Space Museum's "Destination  
20          Moon" exhibit, for design, education, and installa-  
21          tion costs related to establishing and maintaining  
22          the exhibit, and for costs related to creating a trav-  
23          eling version of the exhibition.

24          (2) One quarter to the Astronauts Memorial  
25          Foundation, for costs related to the preservation,

1 maintenance, and enhancement of the Astronauts  
2 Memorial and for promotion of space exploration  
3 through educational initiatives.

4 (3) One quarter to the Astronaut Scholarship  
5 Foundation, to aid its missions of promoting the im-  
6 portance of science and technology to the general  
7 public and of aiding the United States in retaining  
8 its world leadership in science and technology by  
9 providing college scholarships for the very best and  
10 brightest students pursuing degrees in science, tech-  
11 nology, engineering, or mathematics.

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

16 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),  
17 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance  
18 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as  
19 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin  
20 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-  
21 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual com-  
22 memorative coin program issuance limitation under sec-  
23 tion 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in ef-  
24 fect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-

1 retary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out  
2 this subsection.

3 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

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

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

9 (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges,  
10 are disbursed to any recipient designated in section  
11 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of  
12 the coins authorized by this Act (including labor,  
13 materials, dies, use of machinery, winning design  
14 compensation, overhead expenses, marketing, and  
15 shipping) is recovered by the United States Treas-  
16 ury, consistent with sections 5112(m) and 5134(f) of  
17 title 31, United States Code.

18 **SEC. 9. BUDGET COMPLIANCE.**

19 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of  
20 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,  
21 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement  
22 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this  
23 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record  
24 by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, pro-

- 1 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
- 2 vote on passage.

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