

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2067

To direct the Secretary of the Treasury to incorporate certain features in the redesign of the United States currency so as to make such currency readily accessible to the visually impaired.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 1997

Ms. RIVERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Treasury to incorporate certain features in the redesign of the United States currency so as to make such currency readily accessible to the visually impaired.

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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Common Sense Currency Act of 1997”.

6 (b) FINDINGS.—The Congress hereby finds the fol-
7 lowing:

1 (1) Approximately 3,700,000 Americans are
2 visually disabled, 3,500,000 Americans have low vi-
3 sion, and another 9,000,000 Americans live with
4 milder forms of visual impairment.

5 (2) As the geriatric population of the United
6 States increases, so will the number of people with
7 low vision.

8 (3) Many Americans who are visually impaired
9 are employed, provide for themselves, and lead active
10 and productive lives.

11 (4) In one critical area, however, the self-suffi-
12 ciency of the visually impaired is greatly hindered:
13 the uniform size and color of United States currency
14 makes even the simplest commercial transaction a
15 risky venture for the visually impaired.

16 (5) The United States stands virtually alone
17 out of all the nations of the world in the use of a
18 single color scheme for all denominations of currency
19 since 167 countries use a clearly differentiated color
20 scheme for all denominations of currency and 2 ad-
21 ditional countries use a clearly differentiated color
22 scheme for at least some denominations of currency.

23 (6) In addition, many countries use different
24 sizes for different denominations of currency and at
25 least 23 countries incorporate tactile features on

1 currency to permit the use of such currency by the
2 [blind].

3 (7) Many of the options available for currency
4 design which would reduce the risk of loss through
5 mistake, deceit, or fraud for the visually impaired
6 would also be beneficial for the general “seeing”
7 population and would reduce the amount of losses
8 incurred by businesses through mistakes, fraud, or
9 the mishandling of currency by cashiers at the cash
10 register.

11 **SEC. 2. REDESIGNED CURRENCY REQUIRED TO INCOR-**
12 **PORATE FEATURES FOR THE VISUALLY IM-**
13 **PAIRED.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury
15 shall incorporate the following features in the design of
16 all denominations of United States currency consistent
17 with the principles described in subsection (b):

18 (1) SIZE.—A different size note shall be used
19 for each different denomination of Federal reserve
20 notes.

21 (2) HIGH-CONTRAST NUMERALS.—The denomi-
22 nation of each Federal reserve note shall appear in
23 large high-contrast numerals on a uniform back-
24 ground.

1 (3) COLOR SCHEME.—A clearly differentiated
2 color scheme shall be used for each denomination of
3 currency.

4 (4) ENGRAVED MARKS.—Specific engraved
5 marks, visible or invisible, shall be used for each de-
6 nomination of United States currency.

7 (b) PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE TO CURRENCY DE-
8 SIGN.—In redesigning the United States currency in ac-
9 cordance with subsection (a), the following principles shall
10 apply:

11 (1) READILY IDENTIFIABLE DENOMINATIONS.—
12 It should be fast and easy to identify and distinguish
13 the denominations of the redesigned currency.

14 (2) NO SPECIAL DEVICES.—The identification
15 of the denominations of currency by the visually im-
16 paired should not require any special devices or
17 equipment other than everyday aids, such as eye-
18 glasses.

19 (3) COST-EFFECTIVE.—The redesign of the cur-
20 rency should be cost-effective.

21 (4) COMBINATION OF TACTILE AND OTHER
22 FEATURES.—The redesigned currency should include
23 tactile features to enable the blind to use the cur-

- 1 rency as well as the color and size features described
- 2 in subsection (a) for the visually impaired.

