

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 945

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Robert M. La Follette, Sr., in recognition of his important contributions to the Progressive movement, the State of Wisconsin, and the United States.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 2009

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. REID) 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 coins in commemoration of Robert M. La Follette, Sr., in recognition of his important contributions to the Progressive movement, the State of Wisconsin, and the United States.

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 “Robert M. La Follette,  
5       Sr. Commemorative Coin Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) Robert M. La Follette, Sr., better known as  
2           “Fighting Bob” La Follette, was born more than  
3           150 years ago, on June 14, 1855, in Primrose, Wis-  
4           consin.

5           (2) Fighting Bob was elected to 3 terms in the  
6           United States House of Representatives, 3 terms as  
7           Governor of Wisconsin, and 4 terms as a United  
8           States Senator.

9           (3) Fighting Bob founded the Progressive wing  
10          of the Republican Party.

11          (4) Fighting Bob was a lifelong supporter of  
12          civil rights and women’s suffrage, earning respect  
13          and support from such distinguished Americans as  
14          Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman Upton.

15          (5) Fighting Bob helped to make the “Wis-  
16          consin Idea” a reality at the Federal and State level,  
17          instituting election reforms, environmental conserva-  
18          tion, railroad rate regulation, increased education  
19          funding, and business regulation.

20          (6) Fighting Bob was a principal advocate for  
21          the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution of  
22          the United States, which calls for the election of  
23          United States Senators by popular vote.

24          (7) Fighting Bob delivered an historic speech,  
25          “Free Speech in Wartime”, opposing the public per-

1       secution of those who sought to hold their Govern-  
2       ment accountable.

3           (8) Fighting Bob played a key role in exposing  
4       the corruption during the Teapot Dome Scandal.

5           (9) Fighting Bob and his wife, Belle Case La  
6       Follette, founded La Follette's Weekly, now renamed  
7       The Progressive, a monthly magazine for the Pro-  
8       gressive community.

9           (10) Fighting Bob ran for the presidency on  
10      the Progressive ticket in 1924, winning more than  
11      17 percent of the popular vote.

12          (11) The Library of Congress recognized Fight-  
13      ing Bob in 1985 by naming the Congressional Re-  
14      search Service reading room in the Madison Build-  
15      ing in honor of both Robert M. La Follette, Sr., and  
16      his son, Robert M. La Follette, Jr., for their shared  
17      commitment to the development of a legislative re-  
18      search service to support the United States Con-  
19      gress.

20          (12) Fighting Bob was honored in 1929 with 1  
21      of 2 statues representing the State of Wisconsin in  
22      National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol.

23          (13) Fighting Bob was chosen as one of "Five  
24      Outstanding Senators" by the Special Committee on  
25      the Senate Reception Room in 1957.

1           (14) A portrait of Fighting Bob was unveiled in  
2           the Senate Reception Room in March 1959.

3           (15) Fighting Bob was revered by his sup-  
4           porters for his unwavering support of his ideals, and  
5           for his tenacious pursuit of a more just and account-  
6           able Government.

7   **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

8           (a) \$1 SILVER COINS.—The Secretary of the Treas-  
9           ury (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall mint  
10          and issue not more than 500,000 \$1 coins in commemora-  
11          tion of Robert M. La Follette, Sr., each of which shall—

12               (1) weigh 26.73 grams;

13               (2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

14               (3) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent  
15          copper.

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

19          (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
20          5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins  
21          minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-  
22          matic items.

23   **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

24          (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins  
2           minted under this Act shall be developed in consulta-  
3           tion with artists from the State of Wisconsin, and  
4           shall be emblematic of the life and accomplishments  
5           of Robert M. La Follette, Sr.

6           (2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On  
7           each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

8                     (A) a designation of the value of the coin;

9                     (B) an inscription of the year in which the  
10           coin is minted; and

11                    (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,  
12           “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-  
13           ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

14       (b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted  
15       under this Act shall be—

16                    (1) selected by the Secretary, after consultation  
17           with artists from the State of Wisconsin and the  
18           Commission of Fine Arts; and

19                    (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory  
20           Committee.

21       **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

22           (a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this  
23       Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

1 (b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United  
2 States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality  
3 of the coins minted under this Act.

4 (c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may  
5 issue coins minted under this Act only during the calendar  
6 year beginning on January 1, 2011.

7 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

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

11 (1) the face value of the coins;

12 (2) the surcharge provided in subsection (b)  
13 with respect to such coins; and

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

17 (b) SURCHARGES.—All sales of coins minted under  
18 this Act shall include a surcharge of \$10 per coin.

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

22 (d) 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. DISTRIBUTION OF SURCHARGES.**

5       Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States  
6   Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the  
7   sale of coins minted under this Act shall be deposited into  
8   the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

9   **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

10       (a) NO NET COST TO THE GOVERNMENT.—The Sec-  
11   retary shall take such actions as may be necessary to en-  
12   sure that minting and issuing coins under this Act will  
13   not result in any net cost to the United States Govern-  
14   ment.

15       (b) PAYMENT FOR COINS.—A coin shall not be issued  
16   under this Act unless the Secretary has received—

17           (1) full payment for the coin;

18           (2) security satisfactory to the Secretary to in-  
19   demnify the United States for full payment; or

20           (3) a guarantee of full payment satisfactory to  
21   the Secretary from a depository institution whose  
22   deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insur-  
23   ance Corporation or the National Credit Union Ad-  
24   ministration Board.

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