

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3105

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the landing and settlement of Plymouth Colony, the signing of the Mayflower Compact, and the role of the indigenous Wampanoag tribes in the realization of the settlement.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 28, 2016

Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. WARREN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the landing and settlement of Plymouth Colony, the signing of the Mayflower Compact, and the role of the indigenous Wampanoag tribes in the realization of the settlement.

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 “Plymouth 400th Anni-
5 versary Commemorative Coin Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) the United States is poised for an anniver-
2 sary of national and international significance, the
3 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage and the
4 founding of Plymouth Colony;

5 (2) the Plymouth 400th anniversary will high-
6 light the cultural contributions and United States
7 traditions that began with the interaction of the in-
8 digenous Wampanoag and English peoples, a story
9 that significantly shaped the building of the United
10 States;

11 (3) the settlers, some known as Pilgrims, and
12 their ship the Mayflower, have come to represent na-
13 tional and international symbols of freedom and law;

14 (4) the indigenous Wampanoag people, and
15 their interaction with the Pilgrims, created an im-
16 portant legacy through their assistance and associa-
17 tion, including participation in the shared harvest
18 feast, “The First Thanksgiving”, which serves as
19 the indelible icon for the Thanksgiving holiday in the
20 United States;

21 (5) the “Mayflower Compact”, signed near
22 Provincetown off the coast of Cape Cod before land-
23 ing in Plymouth, was the colonial cornerstone for
24 self-governance in the New World and had a pro-
25 found influence on later developments related to the

1 Constitution of the United States and the Bill of
2 Rights;

3 (6) there are more than 20,000,000 descend-
4 ants worldwide that trace their ancestry back to the
5 Mayflower passengers arriving in 1620 and on sub-
6 sequent ships in the 1620s;

7 (7) in 2009, a nonprofit organization, Plymouth
8 400, Inc., was established to ensure a suitable na-
9 tional observance of the Plymouth 400th anniversary
10 to include the themes of exploration, innovation, im-
11 migration, self-governance, religious freedom, and
12 thanksgiving, which are legacies that were sparked
13 by these historic events and that continue today as
14 cornerstones of the United States;

15 (8) Plymouth 400, Inc., will lead, support, and
16 facilitate legislative and marketing efforts for a com-
17 memorative coin series, United States postage
18 stamps, and related activities for the Plymouth
19 400th anniversary observances and commemorations
20 in 2020;

21 (9) a commemorative coin series will bring na-
22 tional and international attention to the lasting leg-
23 acy of Plymouth Colony, its settlers, and the indige-
24 nous Wampanoag tribes of the area;

1 (10) the proceeds from a surcharge on the sale
 2 of such commemorative coins will assist the financ-
 3 ing of a suitable national observance in 2020 and
 4 2021 of the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim land-
 5 ing and historic events, including the signing of the
 6 Mayflower Compact, the “First Thanksgiving” feast,
 7 interaction with the indigenous Wampanoag people,
 8 and other significant events of the period;

9 (11) today, people from across the 50 States
 10 and from around the world flock to Plymouth to see
 11 the landing place, Plymouth Rock, visit the re-cre-
 12 ated Mayflower and Plimoth Plantation, and trace
 13 their ancestry and learn about the indigenous
 14 Wampanoag and their integral role in the history of
 15 the United States; and

16 (12) the story of the Pilgrims, the indigenous
 17 Wampanoag people, and the Mayflower are iconic
 18 symbols for the world representing freedom, family,
 19 law, and justice.

20 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

21 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treas-
 22 ury (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”)
 23 shall mint and issue the following coins:

24 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 100,000
 25 \$5 coins, which shall—

- 1 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;
2 (B) have a diameter of 0.85 inches; and
3 (C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent
4 alloy.

5 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000
6 \$1 coins, which shall—

- 7 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;
8 (B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and
9 (C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

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

- 12 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;
13 (B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and
14 (C) be minted to the specifications for half-
15 dollar coins described in section 5112(b) of title
16 31, United States Code.

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

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

24 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

25 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins
 2 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the
 3 landing and settlement of Plymouth Colony, the
 4 signing of the Mayflower Compact, and the role of
 5 the indigenous Wampanoag tribes in the realization
 6 of the settlement.

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

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

10 (B) an inscription of the year “2020”,
 11 “2021”, or “2020–2021”; and

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

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

17 (1) selected by the Secretary after consulting
 18 with—

19 (A) Plymouth 400, Inc.;

20 (B) Plimoth Plantation, Inc.;

21 (C) the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe;

22 (D) the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead
 23 (Aquinnah);

24 (E) the General Society of Mayflower De-
 25 scendants;

1 (F) the Pilgrim Society;
 2 (G) the Plymouth Antiquarian Society;
 3 (H) the Pilgrim Monument and Province-
 4 town Museum;
 5 (I) the Massachusetts Cultural Council;
 6 and
 7 (J) the Massachusetts Historical Society;
 8 and
 9 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory
 10 Committee.

11 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

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

17 (c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may
 18 issue coins minted under this Act only during a 2-year
 19 period beginning January 1, 2020.

20 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

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

24 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

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

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

9 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

16 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this
18 Act shall include a surcharge as follows:

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

20 (2) A surcharge of \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

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

23 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of
24 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by

1 the Secretary from the sale of coins under this Act shall
2 be promptly paid by the Secretary as follows:

3 (1) 50 percent of the surcharges to Plymouth
4 400, Inc.—

5 (A) to support the work of the organiza-
6 tion to develop, implement, and provide over-
7 sight for the commemorations surrounding the
8 events of 2020 through 2021; and

9 (B) at the discretion of Plymouth 400 to
10 distribute to local historical preservation and
11 cultural organizations to support their impor-
12 tant work in educating the public about the set-
13 tlement of 1620, their continued existence for
14 the benefit of future generations, and other re-
15 lated purposes.

16 (2) 15 percent of the surcharges to Plimoth
17 Plantation to support their effort to maintain the
18 replica of the 1627 Plantation, the Mayflower II,
19 and the replica of the Wampanoag Village.

20 (3) 15 percent of the surcharges to a Wampa-
21 noag tribal organization to continue programs to
22 educate people about the life of the Wampanoag peo-
23 ple prior to the Plymouth settlement and the inter-
24 actions between the settlers and the Wampanoag
25 people.

1 (4) 10 percent of the surcharges to the General
2 Society of Mayflower Descendants—

3 (A) to support the continued restoration of
4 the main facility in Plymouth;

5 (B) to provide funding for their research
6 library at that site; and

7 (C) for educational purposes.

8 (5) 10 percent of the surcharges to the Pilgrim
9 Society to continue their work in displaying the
10 story of the settlement and its artifacts, including
11 the role of the indigenous Wampanoag tribe in the
12 settlement.

13 (c) AUDITS.—The Comptroller General of the United
14 States shall have the right to examine such books, records,
15 documents, and other data of each of the organizations
16 referred to in subsection (b) as may be related to the ex-
17 penditures of amounts paid under such subsection.

18 (d) LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
19 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
20 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
21 of such time of issuance, the issuance of such coin would
22 result in the number of commemorative coin programs
23 issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemo-
24 rative coin program issuance limitation under section
25 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect

1 on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary
2 of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this sub-
3 section.

4 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

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

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

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

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