

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 1830

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 125

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of H.R. 1830, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction: Strike "National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, Inc." each place such term appears and insert "National Purple Heart Honor Mission, Inc.".

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1700

COIN METAL MODIFICATION AUTHORIZATION AND COST SAVINGS ACT OF 2020

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7995) to amend title 31, United States Code, to save Federal funds by authorizing changes to the composition of circulating coins, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7995

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Coin Metal Modification Authorization and Cost Savings Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. SAVING FEDERAL FUNDS BY AUTHORIZING CHANGES TO THE COMPOSITION OF CIRCULATING COINS.

Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(x) COMPOSITION OF CIRCULATING COINS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and subject to the other provisions of this subsection, the Director of the United States Mint (referred to in this subsection as the 'Director'), in consultation with the Secretary, may modify the metallic composition of circulating coins to a new metallic composition (including by prescribing reasonable manufacturing tolerances with respect to those coins) if a study and analysis conducted by the United States Mint, including solicitation of input, including input on acceptor tolerances and requirements, from industry stakeholders who could be affected by changes in the composition of circulating coins, indicates that the modification will—

"(A) reduce costs incurred by the taxpayers of the United States;

"(B) be seamless, which shall mean the same diameter and weight as United States coinage being minted on the date of enact-

ment of this subsection and that the coins will work interchangeably in most coin acceptors using electromagnetic signature technology; and

"(C) have as minimal an adverse impact as possible on the public and stakeholders.

"(2) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—On the date that is at least 90 legislative days before the date on which the Director begins making a modification described in paragraph (1), the Director shall submit to Congress notice that—

"(A) provides a justification for the modification, including the support for that modification in the study and analysis required under paragraph (1) with respect to the modification;

"(B) describes how the modification will reduce costs incurred by the taxpayers of the United States;

"(C) certifies that the modification will be seamless, as described in paragraph (1)(B); and

"(D) certifies that the modification will have as minimal an adverse impact as possible on the public and stakeholders.

"(3) CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORITY.—The Director may begin making a modification proposed under this subsection not earlier than the date that is 90 legislative days after the date on which the Director submits to Congress the notice required under paragraph (2) with respect to that modification, unless Congress, during the period of 90 legislative days beginning on the date on which the Director submits that notice—

"(A) finds that the modification is not justified in light of the information contained in that notice; and

"(B) enacts a joint resolution of disapproval of the proposed modification.

"(4) PROCEDURES.—For purpose of paragraph (3)—

"(A) a joint resolution of disapproval is a joint resolution the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: 'That Congress disapproves the modification submitted by the Director of the United States Mint.'; and

"(B) the procedural rules in the House of Representatives and the Senate for a joint resolution of disapproval described under paragraph (3) shall be the same as provided for a joint resolution of disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code."

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GONZALEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7995, the Coin Metal Modification Authorization and Cost Savings Act of 2020. I thank the gentleman from Nevada (Representative AMODEI) for his work on this bill, which authorizes the Director of the Mint, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, to modify the metallic composition of circulating coins to better meet public demand for coins while seeking to reduce costs to taxpayers and preserve interoperability with existing coin acceptor technology.

Despite the changes to our everyday lives brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, coin production is at an all-time high. Just this year, the U.S. Mint averaged a monthly production rate of approximately 1.27 billion coins per month for a total of 15.2 billion coins over the past 12 months. By comparison, the Mint produced 11.9 billion coins for all of 2019.

Since 2006, metal prices have risen to where the unit costs of a penny and nickel exceed their face value. The U.S. Mint estimates that by adjusting the metal content of coins, the Federal Government could save between \$10 million to \$17 million per year.

This bill would require any proposed change in the metallic composition of coins to both reduce costs to taxpayers and be seamless. This means that the diameter, weight, and electromagnetic signature of the new coins would operate interchangeably in most coin acceptors that use electromagnetic signature technology, such as vending machines, laundromats, and the self-checkout lines at your local grocery stores.

This commonsense reform provides the Mint with the flexibility to save taxpayer dollars and avoid future supply chain disruptions while balancing the needs of stakeholders in ensuring that any new coins work within the existing coin acceptance infrastructure.

This bill is supported by a wide range of industry stakeholders, including the National Automatic Merchandising Association, the Coin Laundry Association, and the Food Industry Association.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. AMODEI for his work on this bill, and I urge Members to vote "yes."

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7995, the Coin Metal Modification Authorization and Cost Savings Act of 2020.

Mr. Speaker, title 31 of the United States Code establishes the monetary system on which our Nation relies. Section 5112, in particular, sets out the parameters by which the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to mint and issue the coins that we use on a daily basis in the United States. Those parameters are incredibly detailed.

For example, there are provisions outlining the number of circulating

coin programs, numismatic coins, better known as coins used to commemorate a person or event. The provisions even depict the metal composition requirements that every coin leaving the United States Mint must meet.

In fact, different coins have different composition requirements. For example, "The 5-cent coin is an alloy of 75 percent copper and 25 percent nickel." One quarter and a dime must be "clad . . . with three layers of metal. The two identical outer layers are an alloy of 75 percent copper and 25 percent nickel. The inner layer is copper. The outer layers are metallurgically bonded to the inner layer and weigh at least 30 percent of the weight of the coin."

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7995, introduced by my colleague, Congressman AMODEI, from the great State of Nevada, would amend title 31. The bill would allow the United States Mint to research and make recommendations to Congress regarding changes to the metallic composition of those circulating coins we use every day.

Once the Mint's research is complete, the Director of the Mint must report to Congress any proposed changes it seeks to make, including justifications for the changes.

This report to Congress must include the following information. First, the report must describe how the proposed modifications will save taxpayer dollars. The report must describe how the modifications will be implemented without disrupting the current circulation of coins. Finally, the report must show that any modification will have minimal negative impact on the public.

Mr. Speaker, let me make one thing clear. This bill maintains Congress' Article I authority over coins. The bill provides that if Congress, the entity constitutionally responsible for coinage, disagrees with or believes the modifications are too burdensome, it can stop the process. The bill provides for an expedited review process, similar to the Congressional Review Act, to stop any changes the Mint would make.

This bill may seem like a strange idea. Why change the composition of coins? Isn't the old saying: If it isn't broke, don't fix it?

Mr. Speaker, recent projections from the Mint estimate that the legislation would allow for potential savings of \$4 million more annually by changing the metal composition of the nickel and potential savings of up to \$14 million annually by changing the dime and quarter. These projected numbers do not account for the penny, which would undoubtedly increase the savings to taxpayers.

Needless to say, these savings are not chump change.

Mr. Speaker, I am not a coin expert. But I can say that if the Mint is able to save the U.S. taxpayer considerable money by altering the metal composition of circulating coins, we should give the coin experts the chance to make their case.

H.R. 7995 makes sense. It is a commonsense cost-savings bill. It is for this reason that I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it as well. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JOHN W. ROSE).

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 7995, the Coin Metal Modification Authorization and Cost Savings Act of 2020.

I first want to thank the bill's sponsor for his willingness to amend the bill to address some of the concerns both Members and stakeholders have raised. I believe that, as a result, we have a better bill before us today. However, I do not think these changes went far enough.

This legislation still cedes congressional authority and represents a radical shift in the balance of power.

Section 8, Clause 5 of Article I of the Constitution grants Congress the power "to coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures."

I am having trouble understanding why we would willingly hand over a duty specifically given to the Congress in the Constitution. Historically, Congress has been reluctant to relinquish that power to fix the standard of coin weight and measure to the executive branch and has balked at similar pieces of legislation over separation of powers concerns.

We continue to cede congressional authority to the executive branch, and history reveals disastrous results from doing so. I, too, believe we should look for efficiency in government as well as opportunity to save taxpayer dollars. However, it should not come at the cost of willfully handing over specific duties to us in the Constitution in the process.

Mr. Speaker, although well intentioned, I believe this is an important issue that deserves a thoughtful discussion and debate, something a hearing would have provided, and its consideration should not be expedited without that debate.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire through the Chair if my colleague has any remaining speakers on his side.

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we have two speakers remaining.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE).

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this bill. This bill would shift the constitutional power to coin money and regulate its value from Congress to the executive branch.

While I applaud the effort to give the Mint flexibility to reduce costs, this

bill has the unintended effect of relinquishing Congress' constitutional power to coin money to the executive branch. We see this shift of power all the time in this body.

It is the prerogative of Congress to regulate the country's coinage. Let's vote to maintain this prerogative. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose suspending the rules and passing H.R. 7995.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI).

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from Missouri and Ohio for their graciousness in granting me some time, and also my colleagues from Tennessee for their comments.

In short, this bill is about savings. It has already been mentioned, H.R. 7995 wants to save money when it comes to the fact that it costs the Mint almost a half-cent to make a nickel. It costs them 1.75 cents to make a penny. The dime and the quarter are not far behind.

No disrespect to anybody here who has spoken before, but quite frankly, when all else fails, read the Constitution and read the bill. The Constitution says that we have the ability to coin money, to regulate the value of the money, and foreign money, and we also have weights and measures.

H.R. 7995 is not a long bill, ladies and gentlemen. Essentially, it is two pages long, and it talks about changing the metal content. Nowhere in Article I does it say anything about the content of the metal of the coin. So when my colleague from Missouri says this is a commonsense measure that is just meant to save money, it is like that is it. There is no mystery here.

We lose money on every one of those pennies and nickels that we coin. We want to regulate. We want to give the Mint the ability to regulate the metal content.

I am going to say it once more, and then I will stop. We want, through H.R. 7995, to give the Mint the ability to regulate the metal content of the coin. None of the things that are covered in this provision are in the Constitution, with all due respect.

But guess what? It is not like: Okay, that is it. End of analysis. Please support the bill.

The last part is this. Despite the fact that it is not in there about metal content and changing any of the specifically enumerated constitutional provisions, there are still provisions in this bill that say: But out of an abundance of caution, let's go ahead and make sure that the Congress knows when we change the metallic content of a coin, with the idea of saving money for taxpayers, and make sure that other stakeholders don't have objections.

So, if anything, we have expanded the meaning of that provision in the Constitution to say, oh, by the way,

let's talk to Congress and make sure they are okay, even though it is not in this section.

So, with all due respect, I would request your favorable consideration. I thank the committee of jurisdiction for its look at this, and I urge your support.

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7995, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill is a commonsense reform that provides the Mint with the flexibility needed to meet consumer demand for coins while saving taxpayer dollars.

This bill ensures that modifications will operate interchangeably and without disruption to existing coin acceptor infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to vote "yes" on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7995, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1828

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma) at 6 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.

COIN METAL MODIFICATION AUTHORIZATION AND COST SAVINGS ACT OF 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7995) to amend title 31, United States Code, to save Federal funds by authorizing changes to the composition of circulating coins, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 343, nays 41, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 228]

YEAS—343

Adams	Evans	Larson (CT)
Aguilar	Finkenauer	Latta
Allred	Fitzpatrick	Lawrence
Amodei	Fleischmann	Lawson (FL)
Armstrong	Fletcher	Lee (CA)
Axne	Fortenberry	Lee (NV)
Baird	Foster	Levin (CA)
Balderson	Frankel	Levin (MI)
Banks	Fudge	Lieu, Ted
Barr	Gabbard	Lipinski
Barragán	Gallagher	Lofgren
Bass	Gallego	Long
Beatty	Garamendi	Lowenthal
Bera	Garcia (CA)	Lowey
Beyer	Garcia (IL)	Lucas
Bilirakis	Garcia (TX)	Luetkemeyer
Bishop (GA)	Gibbs	Luján
Blumenauer	Golden	Luria
Blunt Rochester	Gomez	Lynch
Bonamici	Gonzalez (OH)	Malinowski
Bost	Gonzalez (TX)	Maloney
Boyle, Brendan	Gooden	Carolyn B.
F.	Gottheimer	Maloney, Sean
Brady	Granger	Marshall
Brindisi	Graves (MO)	Matsui
Brooks (AL)	Green, Al (TX)	McAdams
Brown (MD)	Grijalva	McBath
Brownley (CA)	Grothman	McCarthy
Buchanan	Guest	McCauley
Buck	Guthrie	McClintock
Burgess	Haaland	McCollum
Bustos	Harder (CA)	McEachin
Butterfield	Harris	McGovern
Carbajal	Hartzler	McHenry
Carson (IN)	Hastings	McKinley
Carter (GA)	Hayes	McNerney
Case	Heck	Meeks
Casten (IL)	Herrera Beutler	Meng
Castor (FL)	Higgins (NY)	Meuser
Castro (TX)	Hill (AR)	Mfume
Chabot	Himes	Miller
Chu, Judy	Hollingsworth	Moolenaar
Cisneros	Horn, Kendra S.	Moore
Clark (MA)	Horsford	Morelle
Clarke (NY)	Houlahan	Moulton
Clay	Hoyer	Mucarsel-Powell
Cleaver	Hudson	Murphy (FL)
Clyburn	Huffman	Murphy (NC)
Cohen	Hurd (TX)	Nadler
Cole	Jackson Lee	Napolitano
Conaway	Jacobs	Neal
Connolly	Jayapal	Neguse
Cooper	Jeffries	Newhouse
Correa	Johnson (GA)	Norcross
Costa	Johnson (OH)	Nunes
Courtney	Johnson (SD)	O'Halleran
Cox (CA)	Johnson (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez
Craig	Joyce (OH)	Olson
Crenshaw	Joyce (PA)	Omar
Crist	Kaptur	Palazzo
Crow	Katko	Pallone
Cuellar	Keating	Panetta
Cunningham	Keller	Pappas
Curtis	Kelly (IL)	Pascarell
Davids (KS)	Kelly (MS)	Payne
Davidson (OH)	Kelly (PA)	Pence
Davis (CA)	Kennedy	Perlmutter
Davis, Danny K.	Khanna	Peters
Davis, Rodney	Kildee	Peterson
Dean	Kilmer	Phillips
DeGette	Kim	Pingree
DeLauro	Kind	Pocan
DeBene	King (NY)	Porter
Delgado	Kinziger	Pressley
Demings	Kirkpatrick	Price (NC)
DeSaulnier	Krishnamoorthi	Quigley
Deutch	Kuster (NH)	Raskin
Diaz-Balart	Kustoff (TN)	Reed
Dingell	LaHood	Rice (NY)
Doggett	LaMalfa	Rice (SC)
Engel	Lamb	Richmond
Escobar	Lamborn	Riggleman
Eshoo	Langevin	Roby
Espallat	Larsen (WA)	Rodgers (WA)

Rogers (AL)	Smith (NJ)	Upton
Rogers (KY)	Smith (WA)	Van Drew
Rouda	Smucker	Vargas
Rouzer	Soto	Veasey
Roybal-Allard	Spanberger	Vela
Ruiz	Spano	Velázquez
Ruppersberger	Stanton	Visclosky
Rush	Stauber	Walberg
Rutherford	Stefanik	Walden
Ryan	Stell	Waltz
Sánchez	Stevens	Wasserman
Sarbanes	Stivers	Schultz
Scalise	Suozi	Waters
Scanlon	Swalwell (CA)	Watkins
Schakowsky	Takano	Watson Coleman
Schiff	Taylor	Weber (TX)
Schneider	Thompson (CA)	Webster (FL)
Schrader	Thompson (MS)	Welch
Schrier	Thompson (PA)	Wenstrup
Schweikert	Thornberry	Westerman
Scott (VA)	Timmons	Wexton
Scott, David	Tipton	Wild
Serrano	Titus	Williams
Sewell (AL)	Tlaib	Wilson (FL)
Shalala	Tonko	Wilson (SC)
Sherman	Torres (CA)	Wittman
Sherrill	Torres Small	Womack
Shimkus	(NM)	Woodall
Simpson	Trahan	Yarmuth
Sires	Trone	Yoho
Slotkin	Turner	Zeldin
Smith (NE)	Underwood	

NAYS—41

Amash	Ferguson	Mast
Arrington	Fulcher	Mooney (WV)
Babin	Gohmert	Mullin
Bergman	Gosar	Norman
Biggs	Green (TN)	Perry
Bishop (NC)	Griffith	Posey
Burchett	Hagedorn	Roe, David P.
Cline	Hern, Kevin	Rose, John W.
Cloud	Hice (GA)	Roy
Comer	Huizenga	Smith (MO)
DesJarlais	Jordan	Steube
Duncan	Lesko	Tiffany
Emmer	Loudermilk	Young
Estes	Massie	

NOT VOTING—45

Abraham	Cook	Marchant
Aderholt	Crawford	Mitchell
Allen	DeFazio	Palmer
Bacon	Doyle, Michael	Reschenthaler
Bishop (UT)	F.	Rooney (FL)
Brooks (IN)	Dunn	Rose (NY)
Bucshon	Flores	Scott, Austin
Budd	Foxx (NC)	Sensenbrenner
Byrne	Gaetz	Speier
Calvert	Gianforte	Stewart
Cárdenas	Graves (LA)	Wagner
Carter (TX)	Higgins (LA)	Walker
Cartwright	Holding	Walorski
Cheney	Johnson (LA)	Wright
Ciçilline	King (IA)	
Collins (GA)	Loeb sack	

□ 1921

Messrs. BURCHETT, HICE of Georgia, EMMER, BABIN, DUNCAN, ARRINGTON, HAGEDORN, BERGMAN, FERGUSON, KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, COMER, FULCHER, and ESTES changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mses. BASS and OCASIO-CORTEZ changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote today due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 7995, the Coin Metal Modification Authorization and Cost Savings Act of 2020.