

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 2519, with An Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2519

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 2017

Mr. WALZ (for himself, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. BACON, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERA, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BLUM, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BOST, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. COLE, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. DUNN, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GALLEGO, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. JONES, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KIND, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KNIGHT, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAST, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NOEM, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. POLIS, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. TITUS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WALDEN, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr.

ZELDIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.

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 American Legion
5 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) on March 15, 1919, The American Legion
9 was founded in Paris, France, by members of the
10 American Expeditionary Force occupying Europe
11 after World War I and concerned about the welfare
12 of their comrades and communities upon their re-
13 turn to the United States;

14 (2) on September 16, 1919, Congress chartered
15 The American Legion, which quickly grew to become
16 the largest veterans service organization in the
17 United States;

1 (3) The American Legion conferences in Wash-
2 ington, DC, in 1923 and 1924 crafted the first
3 United States Flag Code, which was adopted in
4 schools, States, cities and counties prior to being en-
5 acted in 1942, establishing the proper use, display,
6 and respect for the colors of the United States;

7 (4) during World War II, The American Legion
8 developed and presented to Congress its case for
9 vastly improved support for medically discharged,
10 disabled veterans, which ultimately became the Serv-
11 icemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (58 Stat. 284;
12 chapter 268), better known as the G.I. Bill of
13 Rights, and was drafted by former American Legion
14 National Commander Harry W. Colmery in Wash-
15 ington's Mayflower Hotel;

16 (5) through the leadership and advocacy of The
17 American Legion, the G.I. Bill was enacted in June
18 1944, which led to monumental changes in United
19 States society, including the democratization of high-
20 er education, home ownership for average people in
21 the United States, better VA hospitals, business and
22 farm loans for veterans, and the ability to appeal
23 conditions of military discharge;

24 (6) defying those who argued the G.I. Bill
25 would break the Treasury, according to various re-

1 searchers, the G.I. Bill provided a tremendous re-
2 turn on investment of \$7 to the United States econ-
3 omy for every \$1 spent on the program, triggering
4 a half-century of prosperity in the United States;

5 (7) after Hurricane Hugo in 1989, The Amer-
6 ican Legion established the National Emergency
7 Fund to provide immediate cash relief for veterans
8 who have been affected by natural disasters;

9 (8) American Legion National Emergency Fund
10 grants after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005,
11 for instance, exceeded \$1,700,000;

12 (9) The American Legion fought to see the Vet-
13 erans Administration elevated to Cabinet-level status
14 as the Department of Veterans Affairs, ensuring
15 support for veterans would be set at the highest level
16 of the Federal Government, as a priority issue for
17 the President;

18 (10) after a decades-long struggle to improve
19 the adjudication process for veterans disputing
20 claims decisions, The American Legion helped shape
21 and introduce the Veterans Reassurance Act to cre-
22 ate a venue for judicial review of veterans' appeals;

23 (11) building on these efforts, legislation was
24 passed in 1988 to create the United States Court of

1 Veterans Appeals, today known as the United States
2 Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims;

3 (12) The American Legion created the Amer-
4 ican Legacy Scholarship Fund for children of mili-
5 tary members killed on active duty on or after Sep-
6 tember 11, 2001;

7 (13) in 2016, The American Legion's National
8 Executive Committee amended the original scholar-
9 ship criteria to include children of veterans with 50
10 percent or greater VA disability ratings;

11 (14) President George W. Bush signed into law
12 the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act
13 (title V of the Supplemental Appropriations Act,
14 2008; 122 Stat. 2357), a next-generation G.I. Bill
15 strongly supported by The American Legion and the
16 most comprehensive educational benefits package
17 since the original G.I. Bill of Rights was enacted in
18 1944;

19 (15) in August 2018, The American Legion will
20 begin its centennial recognition at the 100th Na-
21 tional Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the
22 site of the first American Legion National Conven-
23 tion; and

24 (16) in March 2019, the organization will cele-
25 brate its 100th birthday in Paris, France, and Sep-

1 tember 16, 2019, will mark the 100th anniversary of
2 The American Legion’s Federal charter.

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

4 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In recognition and celebration
5 of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion, the
6 Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred
7 to as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue the following
8 coins:

9 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5
10 coins, which shall—

11 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

12 (B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

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

14 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000
15 \$1 coins, which shall—

16 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

17 (B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

18 (C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

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

21 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

22 (B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

23 (C) be minted to the specifications for half-

24 dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title

25 31, United States Code.

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

4 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
5 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins
6 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-
7 matic items.

8 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The design for the coins minted
10 under this Act shall be emblematic of The American Le-
11 gion.

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

14 (1) a designation of the denomination of the
15 coin;

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

17 (3) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”, “In
18 God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and
19 “E Pluribus Unum”.

20 (c) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted
21 under this Act shall be—

22 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation
23 with—

24 (A) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

1 (B) the Adjutant of The American Legion,
2 as defined in the constitution and bylaws of
3 The American Legion; and
4 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative
5 Coin Advisory Committee.

6 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

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

12 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

13 (a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act
14 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price based upon the
15 sum of—

16 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

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

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

25 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

7 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

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

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

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

15 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of
16 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by
17 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act
18 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to The American
19 Legion for costs related to—

20 (1) promoting the importance of and caring for
21 those who have served in uniform, ensuring they re-
22 ceive proper health care and disability benefits
23 earned through military service;

24 (2) promoting the importance of, and caring
25 for, those who are still serving in the Armed Forces;

1 (3) promoting the importance of maintaining
2 the patriotic values, morals, culture, and citizenship
3 of the United States; and

4 (4) promoting the importance of maintaining
5 strong families, assistance for at-risk children, and
6 activities that promote their healthy and wholesome
7 development.

8 (c) **LIMITATION.**—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no
9 surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
10 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
11 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin
12 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-
13 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual com-
14 memorative coin program issuance limitation under sec-
15 tion 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in ef-
16 fect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-
17 retary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out
18 this subsection.

19 (d) **AUDIT.**—The recipient described under sub-
20 section (b) shall be subject to the audit requirements of
21 section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with
22 regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

23 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

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

1 (1) minting and issuing coins under this Act
2 will not result in any net cost to the United States
3 Government; and
4 (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges,
5 are disbursed to the recipient designated in section
6 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of
7 the coins authorized by this Act (including labor,
8 materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses,
9 marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the United
10 States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m)
11 and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.