

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5232

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

Mr. MCHENRY (for himself and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

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 “Working Dog Com-
5 memorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Dogs going back thousands of years have
2 been tied to humans whether protection, companion-
3 ship, or assisting in daily activities.

4 (2) The United States had an unofficial canine
5 military presence assisting soldiers in the Civil War
6 and World War I, but military K–9s did not become
7 officially recognized until March 13, 1942. During
8 the height on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq it
9 is estimated that the United States military em-
10 ployed near 2,500 K–9s.

11 (3) Military K–9s have seen service in every
12 major United States combat since World War I and
13 have been praised by military leadership as an indis-
14 pensable asset for military, police, government, and
15 private security teams around the world.

16 (4) In 2000, Congress passed “Robby’s Law”
17 which allowed for the adoption of military K–9s by
18 law enforcement agencies, former handlers, and
19 other care groups.

20 (5) Since 2000, military K–9s have left service
21 and gone onto work explosive detection for police
22 forces, and work as service dogs for veterans and
23 families.

24 (6) Beyond their military working capacity,
25 working dogs provide enhanced mobility assist and

1 renewed independence for the injured and disabled.
2 Service dogs are able to support veterans struggling
3 after war, hear for those who are deaf, see for those
4 who are blind, and even sense changes in a person's
5 body before a seizure. Working dogs play a vital role
6 in improving the lives of many.

7 (7) The service dog programs of America's
8 VetDogs were created to provide enhanced mobility
9 and renewed independence to United States vet-
10 erans, active-duty service members, and first re-
11 sponders with disabilities.

12 (8) America's VetDogs provides—

13 (A) guide dogs for individuals who are
14 blind or have low vision;

15 (B) hearing dogs for those who have lost
16 their hearing later in life by alerting to alarms,
17 door bells, sirens, and more;

18 (C) service dogs for those with other phys-
19 ical disabilities that are specially trained to pro-
20 vide balance, retrieve dropped items, open and
21 close doors, turn on and off lights, carry a
22 backpack, and more;

23 (D) facility dogs which are specially
24 trained to spend time working with wounded

1 veterans recovering at military hospitals and
2 veterans medical centers;

3 (E) dogs that work with physical and occu-
4 pational therapists as they treat soldiers and
5 become an essential part of the healing process;
6 and

7 (F) PTSD service dogs that are trained to
8 help mitigate the symptoms of PTSD by pro-
9 viding the emotional and physical support a vet-
10 eran may need.

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

12 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treas-
13 ury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”)
14 shall mint and issue the following coins in commemoration
15 of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to soci-
16 ety.

17 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5
18 coins, which shall—

19 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

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

21 (C) contain 90 percent gold.

22 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000
23 \$1 coins, which shall—

24 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

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

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

4 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

5 (B) be struck on a planchet having a di-
6 ameter of 1.205 inches; and

7 (C) be minted to the specifications for half-
8 dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title
9 31, United States Code.

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

13 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
14 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins
15 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-
16 matic items.

17 **SEC. 4. DESIGNS OF COINS.**

18 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The designs of the coins
20 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the
21 vast contributions that working dogs serve in society
22 to include the range of services that these dogs pro-
23 vide in detection, military service, therapy and as-
24 sistance.

1 (2) **DESIGNS AND INSCRIPTIONS.**—On each coin
2 minted under this Act, there shall be—

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

4 (B) an inscription of the year “2023”; and

5 (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,

6 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-

7 ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

8 (b) **SELECTION.**—The designs for the coins minted
9 under this Act shall be—

10 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation

11 with—

12 (A) America’s VetDogs; and

13 (B) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

14 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory

15 Committee.

16 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

17 (a) **QUALITY OF COINS.**—Coins minted under this

18 Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

19 (b) **MINT FACILITY.**—Only 1 facility of the United

20 States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality

21 of the coins minted under this Act.

22 (c) **PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.**—The Secretary may

23 issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year

24 period beginning on January 1, 2023.

1 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

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

5 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

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

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

14 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

21 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this
23 Act shall include a surcharge of—

24 (1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin;

25 (2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin; and

26 (3) \$5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

1 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f)(1) of
2 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by
3 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act
4 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to America’s
5 VetDogs for application to general expenses associated
6 with the fulfillment of the mission of America’s VetDogs,
7 including for costs associated with—

8 (1) personnel related to training, dog care, and
9 consumer needs;

10 (2) consultants to facilitate the training of
11 America’s VetDogs Certified Service Dog Instruc-
12 tors; and

13 (3) travel, room and board for clients served by
14 America’s VetDogs.

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

20 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
21 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
22 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
23 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin
24 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-
25 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual 2

1 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under
2 section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in
3 effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-
4 retary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out
5 this subsection.

6 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

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

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

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

20 **SEC. 9. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

21 (a) **STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.**—The budg-
22 etary effects of this section shall not be entered on either
23 PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of
24 the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C.
25 933(d)).

1 (b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary
2 effects of this section shall not be entered on any PAYGO
3 scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H.
4 Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

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