

THE 50 STATES COMMEMORATIVE
COIN PROGRAM ACT

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3793) to provide for a 10-year circulating commemorative coin program to commemorate each of the 50 States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3793

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 "50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress hereby finds the following:

(1) It is appropriate and timely to—

(A) honor the unique Federal republic of 50 States that comprise the United States; and
(B) promote the diffusion of knowledge among the youth of the United States about the individual States, their history and geography, and the rich diversity of the national heritage.

(2) The circulating coinage of the United States has not been modernized within the past 25 years.

(3) A circulating commemorative 25-cent coin program could produce earnings of \$110,000,000 over the 10-year period of issuance and would produce indirect earnings of an estimated \$3,400,000,000 to the United States Treasury, money that will replace borrowing to fund the national debt to at least that extent.

(4) It is appropriate to launch a commemorative circulating coin program that encourages young people and their families to collect memorable tokens of all the States for the face value of the coins.

SEC. 3. ISSUANCE OF REDESIGNED QUARTER DOLLARS OVER 10-YEAR PERIOD COMMEMORATING EACH OF THE 50 STATES.

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

"(k) REDESIGN AND ISSUANCE OF QUARTER DOLLAR IN COMMEMORATION OF EACH OF THE 50 STATES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the 4th sentence of subsection (d)(1) and subsection (d)(2), quarter dollar coins issued during the 10-year period beginning on January 1, 1997, shall have designs selected in accordance with this subsection which are emblematic of the 50 States.

"(2) SINGLE STATE DESIGNS.—The design for each dollar issued during the 10-year period referred to in paragraph (1) shall be emblematic of 1 of the 50 the States.

"(3) ISSUANCE OF COINS COMMEMORATING 5 STATES DURING EACH OF THE 10 YEARS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The designs for the quarter dollar coins issued during each year of the 10-year period referred to in paragraph (1) shall be emblematic of 5 States which have not previously been commemorated during such period.

"(B) NUMBER OF EACH OF 5 COIN DESIGNS IN EACH YEAR.—Of the quarter dollar coins issued during each year (of the 10-year period referred to in paragraph (1)), the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe, on the basis of such factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, the number of quarter dollars which shall be issued with each of the 5 designs selected for such year.

"(4) SELECTION OF DESIGN.—Each of the 50 designs required under this subsection for quarter dollars shall be—

"(A) selected by the Secretary after consultation with appropriate officials of the

State being commemorated with such design and the Commission of Fine Arts; and

"(B) reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.

"(5) TREATMENT AS NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136, all coins minted under this subsection shall be considered to be numismatic items.

"(6) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—

"(A) QUALITY OF COINS.—The Secretary may mint and issue such member of quarter dollars of each design selected under paragraph (4) in uncirculated and proof qualities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

"(B) SILVER COINS.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), the Secretary may mint and issue such number of quarter dollars of each design selected under paragraph (4) as the Secretary determines to be appropriate with a content of 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper

"(C) SOURCES OF BULLION.—The Secretary shall obtain silver for minting coins under subparagraph (B) only from stockpiles established under the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act.

"(D) SALE PRICE OF COINS.—The coins issued under this paragraph shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of the face value of the coins and the cost of designating and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, profit, and shipping).

"(7) APPLICATION IN EVENT OF THE ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL STATES.—If any additional State is admitted into the Union before the end of the 10-year period referred to in paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Treasury may issue quarter dollar coins, in accordance with this subsection, with a design which is emblematic of such State during any 1 year of such 10-year period, in addition to the quarter dollar coins issued during such year in accordance with paragraph (3)(A)."

SEC. 4. FIXED TERMS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CITIZENS COMMEMORATIVE COIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 5135(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(4) TERMS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Each individual appointed to the Advisory Committee under clause (i) or (iii) of paragraph (3)(A) shall be appointed for a term of 4 years.

"(B) INTERIM APPOINTMENTS.—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which such member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of such term.

"(C) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—Each member appointed under clause (i) or (iii) of paragraph (3)(A) may continue to serve after the expiration of the term to which such member was appointed until a successor has been appointed and qualified."

(b) STAGGERED TERMS.—Of the members appointed to the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee under clause (i) or (iii) of paragraph (3)(A) of section 5135 of title 31, United States Code, who are serving on the Advisory Committee as of the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) 1 member appointed under clause (i) and 1 member appointed under clause (iii), as designated by the Secretary of the Treasury, shall be deemed to have been appointed to a term which ends on December 31, 1997;

(2) 1 member appointed under clause (i) and 1 member appointed under clause (iii), as designated by the Secretary of the Treasury, shall be deemed to have been appointed to a term which ends on December 31, 1998; and

(3) 1 member appointed under clause (i) and 1 member appointed under clause (iii), as

designated by the Secretary of the Treasury, shall be deemed to have been appointed to a term which ends on December 31, 1999.

(c) STATUS OF MEMBERS.—The members appointed to the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee under clause (i) or (iii) of paragraph (3)(A) of section 5135 of title 31, United States Code, shall not be treated as special Government employees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE].

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

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3793, the 50 State Commemorative Coin Act. This bill honors the 50 States that make up our Federal Union of the United States of America, by producing a series of circulating quarter dollar coins that commemorate, in order, the entrance of each State into the Union.

As we approach the millennium, it is appropriate that we renew the bonds that make this country great. It exists today because the first 13 States joined together to ratify the Constitution and were later joined by 37 others to form a "more perfect union."

Beginning next year and for 9 more years until every State has been honored, five unique designs, each representing an individual State, will be issued at intervals of about 2 months. The completed set will represent in dazzling variety, the diverse history and culture of the States of the Union.

Each State, as the date of its coin issue approaches, will have the opportunity to provide input to the Mint and the National Fine Arts Commission on just what design elements best characterize its unique qualities. This legislation will provide winners all around:

The youth of America will be introduced to a fascinating hobby at minimal expense, as an entire set of 50 coins can be collected from pocket change at a total cost of \$12.50.

Serious numismatic collectors will have the opportunity to acquire these coins by paying only the respective premiums for uncirculated versions or for silver replica editions; there will be no private surcharges added to the cost. Nevertheless, the estimated earnings from the silver coins alone is \$110 million over the course of the program. This sum is scorable for budgetary purposes.

The Mint's experience from the last circulating commemorative issue, the bicentennial quarter of 1976-77, provides the basis to estimate what additional earnings will accrue to the Treasury from this program. The additional profit to the Treasury derives from the fact that each coin that is taken out of circulation by a collector will need to be replaced by another that will be used in vending machines, parking meters, and in normal commerce. The Mint's production schedule is demand driven. Increased production, estimated for this circulating

commemorative program at an additional 50 percent over baseline projections, will produce anticipated earnings on the order of over \$3 billion for the total program. By Congressional Budget Office scoring convention, these earnings are off-budget and thus are not available to be spent by Congress. Instead, they will be applied directly to replace borrowing otherwise necessary to fund the national debt, saving taxpayers the interest on billions of dollars, in perpetuity, or until the debt is paid off, whichever comes first.

This bill is simple and straightforward. At our hearing last July, witnesses described the near unanimously favorable reception for this bill by the collecting community and the broader public. The numismatic franchise of the Federal Government is very valuable, but little has been done in recent times to nurture it and expand the market. This becomes a real problem when one realizes that the profile of the average collector is an upper middle class white male, over 50 years old. We are not creating new collectors to replace those who leave the hobby by whatever mechanism. This program would introduce a younger and more diverse population to the fascinating hobby of coin collecting. It will also teach about the history and diversity of this Nation through pocket change and I urge its immediate adoption.

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

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

I would like to thank the Speaker for the expedited scheduling of what I believe is one of the more exciting events in the history of United States coinage. This afternoon also represents the continued rapport that Chairman CASTLE and I have had the pleasure of sharing during the past couple of years on the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy.

In introducing this bill, we have found at least four compelling policy reasons which suggest now is the time to introduce a series of circulating commemorative coins.

First in an era where fledgling democracies are struggling throughout the world, it is appropriate to honor and commemorate our 220th anniversary as a republic of 50 States.

Second, we have not modernized U.S. coinage in nearly 25 years.

Third, indirect savings of this program would save the U.S. Treasury an estimated \$3.4 billion dollars plus interest over 10 years.

Fourth, the program would foster education about the 50 States in a family setting.

Beyond these issues, the circulating commemorative program for quarters, will among other things make management sense for the Mint. Chairman CASTLE and I produced a bill last year

that would limit the number of noncirculating commemorative coins, and it is my understanding that the other body is moving forward with the bill. As many here may know, there has been a glut of commemorative coins over the past few years, and the mint and numismatic community have urged Congress to reduce the number of commemoratives. At the same time, we have been urged to authorize a circulating program. This program will strike a balance between the Mint's production capacity and the desire to create artistic collectible coinage.

In what better way could we create excitement in U.S. coinage? This program, as one witness in committee described it, would put pride back into our pockets. Pride would come from the fact that the public will become more aware of the rich history of U.S. coinage, which by the way, dates back to the 1790's.

We need look back no further than 1976, when we commemorated our Nation's bicentennial on the quarter. The bicentennial coins symbolically commemorated the people, places, events, and ideals which were the foundation of our great Nation. I expect that the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act will instill the same pride, and reflect similar values in each of our 50 States.

As I stated in July, my only reservation about this program is the fact that Mr. CASTLE'S State will be among the first commemorated under this program, while New York would have to wait until 1999. While Delaware put a new nation on the map in the 18th century, perhaps it is proper for New York to lead the way in commemorating our Nation in the last year of the 20th century. I say these words in jest, and with a sense of humor, since I expect that this program will foster a healthy amount of dignity among residents of the various States. Moreover, I believe this legislation will create an environment which all Americans can feel proud about not only in their home States, but the United States in general.

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

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

I appreciate the gentleman's comments about the relative coming to the States of Delaware and New York. I am proud to be from the First State, but I am proud that New York came along, too, and helped form the Union as well. So we congratulate them on that.

Mr. Speaker, I would like seriously to thank the gentleman for his tremendous cooperation on legislation throughout this 2-year cycle; we have been the chair and vice chair of this committee, and it has really been a great pleasure in working with him on so many, many things.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. LUCAS].

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of

H.R. 3793, the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act. This bill would change the image on our quarter to honor each of the 50 States. Each State's quarter would be minted in the order in which the State ratified the U.S. Constitution, and the pride of each State would be displayed on these coins that would memorialize them forever.

Money historically has been more than just a means to purchase goods and services. It reflects the pride and ideals of a country. It serves as a means to educate every person whose hand it touches about the history and heros of a nation. The image and artistry on coins are enjoyed by every walk of life, regardless of class, income, or race.

This redesigned quarter commemorating each of the 50 States will be no different. Each State will have the opportunity to provide input on the design elements of the quarter. The complete series will represent the diverse history and culture of each State in the Union. I believe this commemorative quarter will stimulate interest in our Nation's history, and its coins.

Besides the obvious benefits of this program, it will save money for the Government and the taxpayer. Like the bicentennial quarter, the 50 State series will be very popular with the public. Americans will keep these quarters allowing the Mint to produce more. It is estimated that the additional coins minted and held by the public will produce \$3.4 billion in savings that the Government would otherwise have to borrow by issuing Treasury bonds. These savings will reduce interest on the debt by \$1 billion over 10 years.

Although I will have to wait until the year 2006 before Oklahoma's quarter is minted, I look forward to honoring each State during the next decade. I encourage all Members to support this bill.

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

I would just like to use this time to commend by chairman, the gentleman from Delaware, MIKE CASTLE, for the wonderful relationship that we share with one another. It seems that there is not only comity as it relates to what we do legislatively; both of use were delayed today in our travels in getting here because of the weather. I think there is something in our spirit that allows us to work so well together. I certainly want to commend him and his staff for working so well and allowing my staff to work with them in the manner that we have.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I would again like to thank the gentleman from New York. He has to deal more with the weather problems because of flights. My problem is not a weather problem. I was announcing for reelection today and I got tied up doing that.

I appreciate the support that he has given to this legislation. I appreciate the support of the gentleman from Oklahoma and those who have been involved with this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3793, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3793, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5, rule I, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 447, de novo; and

House Concurrent Resolution 120, de novo.

TOLL FREE CONSUMER HOTLINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 447, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 447, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 367, nays 9, answered "present" 1, not voting 56, as follows:

[Roll No. 402]

YEAS—367

Abercrombie	Ehlers	Latham
Ackerman	Ehrlich	LaTourette
Allard	English	Laughlin
Archer	Eshoo	Lazio
Armey	Evans	Leach
Bachus	Everett	Levin
Baesler	Ewing	Lewis (CA)
Baker (CA)	Farr	Lewis (GA)
Baker (LA)	Fattah	Lewis (KY)
Baldacci	Fawell	Linder
Ballenger	Fazio	Lipinski
Barcia	Fields (LA)	Livingston
Barrett (NE)	Fields (TX)	LoBiondo
Barrett (WI)	Filner	Lofgren
Bartlett	Flake	Lowe
Barton	Foglietta	Lucas
Bass	Foley	Luther
Bateman	Forbes	Maloney
Becerra	Fox	Manton
Belenson	Frank (MA)	Manzullo
Bentsen	Franks (CT)	Markey
Bereuter	Franks (NJ)	Martinez
Bevill	Frelinghuysen	Martini
Bilbray	Frost	Mascara
Bilirakis	Funderburk	Matsui
Bishop	Furse	McCollum
Bliley	Gejdenson	McCrery
Blumenauer	Gekas	McDade
Blute	Gephardt	McDermott
Boehlert	Geren	McHale
Boehner	Gilchrest	McHugh
Bonilla	Gillmor	McInnis
Bonior	Gilman	McIntosh
Bono	Gonzalez	McKinney
Borski	Goodlatte	McNulty
Boucher	Goodling	Meehan
Brewster	Gordon	Meek
Browder	Goss	Menendez
Brown (CA)	Graham	Meyers
Brown (OH)	Green (TX)	Mica
Bryant (TX)	Greene (UT)	Miller (CA)
Bunning	Greenwood	Miller (FL)
Burr	Gunderson	Mink
Burton	Gutierrez	Moakley
Callahan	Gutknecht	Molinari
Calvert	Hall (OH)	Mollohan
Camp	Hall (TX)	Montgomery
Campbell	Hamilton	Moorhead
Canady	Harman	Moran
Cardin	Hastert	Morella
Castle	Hastings (FL)	Murtha
Chabot	Hastings (WA)	Myers
Chambless	Hayworth	Myrick
Christensen	Hefley	Neal
Chrysler	Hefner	Nethercutt
Clay	Heineman	Neumann
Clayton	Herger	Ney
Clement	Hillery	Nussle
Clinger	Hilliard	Oberstar
Clyburn	Hinchee	Obey
Coble	Hobson	Olver
Coleman	Hoke	Ortiz
Collins (GA)	Holden	Orton
Collins (MI)	Horn	Owens
Combest	Hostettler	Oxley
Condit	Houghton	Packard
Conyers	Hoyer	Pallone
Costello	Hunter	Parker
Cox	Hutchinson	Paxon
Coyne	Hyde	Payne (NJ)
Cramer	Inglis	Payne (VA)
Crapo	Istook	Pelosi
Creameans	Jackson (IL)	Peterson (FL)
Cubin	Jackson-Lee	Peterson (MN)
Cummings	(TX)	Petri
Cunningham	Jacobs	Pickett
Danner	Jefferson	Pombo
Davis	Johnson (CT)	Pomeroy
Deal	Johnson (SD)	Porter
DeFazio	Johnson, E. B.	Poshard
DeLauro	Johnston	Pryce
Dellums	Jones	Quillen
Deutsch	Kanjorski	Quinn
Diaz-Balart	Kasich	Radanovich
Dickey	Kelly	Rahall
Dicks	Kennedy (MA)	Rangel
Dingell	Kennedy (RI)	Reed
Dixon	Kennelly	Regula
Doggett	Kildee	Richardson
Dooley	Kim	Riggs
Doollittle	King	Rivers
Doyle	Klecza	Roberts
Dreier	Klink	Roemer
Duncan	Knollenberg	Ros-Lehtinen
Dunn	LaFalce	Rose
Edwards	Largent	Roth

Roukema	Solomon	Upton
Roybal-Allard	Souder	Velazquez
Sabo	Spence	Vento
Salmon	Spratt	Visclosky
Sanders	Stark	Volkmer
Sawyer	Stearns	Vucanovich
Saxton	Stenholm	Walker
Schaefer	Stockman	Walsh
Schiff	Stokes	Wamp
Schroeder	Studds	Ward
Schumer	Stump	Watt (NC)
Scott	Stupak	Watts (OK)
Seastrand	Talent	Waxman
Sensenbrenner	Tate	Weldon (FL)
Serrano	Tauzin	Weldon (PA)
Shaw	Taylor (MS)	Weller
Shays	Taylor (NC)	White
Shuster	Tejeda	Whitfield
Sisisky	Thomas	Wicker
Skaggs	Thompson	Wilson
Skeen	Thornberry	Wise
Skelton	Thornton	Wolf
Slaughter	Thurman	Woolsey
Smith (MI)	Tiahrt	Wynn
Smith (NJ)	Torkildsen	Yates
Smith (TX)	Torres	Young (FL)
Smith (WA)	Trafficant	

NAYS—9

Cooley	Hoekstra	Sanford
DeLay	Kolbe	Scarborough
Hancock	LaHood	Shadegg

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Barr

NOT VOTING—56

Andrews	Fowler	Millender-
Berman	Frisa	McDonald
Brown (FL)	Gallegly	Minge
Brownback	Ganske	Nadler
Bryant (TN)	Gibbons	Norwood
Bunn	Hansen	Pastor
Buyer	Hayes	Portman
Chapman	Johnson, Sam	Ramstad
Chenoweth	Kaptur	Rogers
Coburn	Kingston	Rohrabacher
Collins (IL)	Klug	Royce
Crane	Lantos	Rush
de la Garza	Lightfoot	Tanner
Dornan	Lincoln	Torricelli
Durbin	Longley	Towns
Engel	McCarthy	Waters
Ensign	McKeon	Williams
Flanagan	Metcalf	Young (AK)
Ford		Zeliff
		Zimmer

□ 1740

Messrs. DELAY, HANCOCK, SANFORD, and COOLEY of Oregon changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. THORNBERRY changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, because inclement weather delayed my return flight from my district, I was not in attendance for one recorded vote, rollcall vote No. 402.

Had I been in attendance, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 402.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 402 on H.R. 447 I was unavoidably detained due to flight delay. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."