

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2067

To amend title 31, United States Code, to save the American taxpayers money by immediately altering the metallic composition of the one-cent, five-cent, dime, and quarter dollar coins, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Mr. STIVERS (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. TIBERI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To amend title 31, United States Code, to save the American taxpayers money by immediately altering the metallic composition of the one-cent, five-cent, dime, and quarter dollar coins, and for other purposes.

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 “Cents and Sensibility
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMPOSITION OF CIRCULATING COINS.**

2 (a) STEEL COINS REQUIRED.—Section 5112 of title
3 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
4 the following new subsection:

5 “(w) COMPOSITION OF CIRCULATING COINS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
7 provision of law, the one-cent, five-cent, dime, and
8 quarter dollar coins produced for circulation and
9 issue shall—

10 “(A) be produced primarily of steel; and

11 “(B) meet such other specifications as the
12 Secretary may determine to be appropriate.

13 “(2) TREATMENT.—The one-cent, five-cent,
14 dime, and quarter dollar coins produced for circula-
15 tion and issue shall be treated in such a manner
16 that the appearance of the coins, both when new and
17 after they have been in circulation, is similar to the
18 one-cent, five-cent, dime, and quarter dollar coins,
19 respectively, produced before the date of the enact-
20 ment of this subsection.

21 “(3) BUY AMERICAN STEEL REQUIREMENT.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
23 other provision of law, the Secretary shall, in
24 minting one-cent, five-cent, dime, and quarter
25 dollar coins produced for circulation and issue,
26 only use steel produced in the United States.

1 “(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A)
2 shall not apply if the Secretary finds, and pub-
3 lishes in the Federal Register the basis of such
4 finding, that—

5 “(i) applying subparagraph (A) would
6 be inconsistent with the public interest; or

7 “(ii) an adequate supply of an appro-
8 priate grade of steel is not produced in the
9 United States in sufficient and reasonably
10 available quantities.”.

11 (b) CONVERSION TO NEW COIN SPECIFICATIONS.—
12 In setting specifications under section 5112(w) of title 31,
13 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Sec-
14 retary of the Treasury shall not set specifications that
15 would—

16 (1) require more than 1 change to coin-accept-
17 ing and coin-handling equipment to accommodate all
18 coins produced pursuant to such subsection;

19 (2) facilitate or allow the use of a coin with a
20 lesser value produced by another country, or the use
21 of any token or other easily or regularly produced
22 metal device of minimal value, in the place of a cir-
23 culating coin produced by the Secretary; or

24 (3) require non-trivial changes to coin-accepting
25 or coin handling equipment to easily accommodate

1 continued co-circulation of both coins produced with
2 the new specifications under such subsection and
3 coins produced on or before the date that is the end
4 of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the
5 enactment of this Act.

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by
8 subsection (a) shall apply to all one-cent, five-cent,
9 dime, and quarter dollar coins produced for circula-
10 tion and issued after the end of the 90-day period
11 beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

12 (2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of the Treas-
13 ury may produce numismatic versions of the one-
14 cent, five-cent, dime, and quarter dollar coins either
15 in the composition specified in section 5112(w) of
16 title 31, United States Code, as added by subsection
17 (a), or in forms and materials similar to those the
18 Secretary produced before the date of the enactment
19 of this Act.

20 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

21 Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is
22 amended—

23 (1) in subsection (b), by striking the first, sec-
24 ond, third, fourth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and tenth
25 sentences; and

1 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
2 lows:

3 “(c) WEIGHT OF THE ONE-CENT COIN.—The Sec-
4 retary may prescribe the weight of the one-cent coin that
5 the Secretary determines is necessary to ensure an ade-
6 quate supply of one-cent coins to meet the needs of the
7 United States.”.

○