



H.R. 2750 - NASA and JPL 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act

H.R. 2750 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Shelia Jackson-Lee (D-TX) on June 15, 2007 and was referred to the Financial Services Committee but was not considered.

H.R. 2750 is expected to be considered on the Floor of the House of Representatives on July 30, 2007.

Summary

H.R. 2750 commemorates the 50th anniversary of NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) by issuing gold and silver coins in the amounts of \$50 and \$1 respectively.

Background

Each coin will have “Liberty” “In God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and “E Pluribus Unum”, and any other inscriptions the Secretary of the Treasury may determine to be appropriate for the designs of the coins.

The \$50 gold coins have the following requirements:

- The “heads” side of each coin will bare and image of the sun;
- The “tails” side of each coin will bare an design depicting the sacrifice of the astronauts who have lost their lives in the line of duty over the course of the space program;
- No more than 50,000 will be minted;
- Each will weigh 33.931 grams;
- Each will have a diameter of 32.7 millimeters; and
- Each will contain 1 troy ounce of fine gold.

The \$1 silver coins will have the following requirements:

- There will be 9 separate designs of the silver coin;
- Each “heads” side of the coin will bare one of the 9 planets;
- Each “tails” side will feature missions involving the various planets;

- No more than 300,000 will be minted;
- Each will weigh 26.73 grams;
- Each will have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and
- Each will contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper;

**Note – On August 24, 2006, the International Astronomical Union (IAU), declared that Pluto is no longer considered a planet. It has since been reclassified as a dwarf planet.*

Both the gold and silver coins will be considered legal tender.

Additionally, the funds raised by the sale of these coins will be distributed to several different organizations. The first \$4,000,000 available for distribution will go to the NASA Family Assistance Fund for the purposes of providing need-based financial assistance to the families of NASA personnel who die as a result of injuries suffered in the performance of their official duties.

1/2 of the next \$1,000,000 to each of the following:

- The Dr. Ronald E. McNair Educational (D.R.E.M.E.) Science Literacy Foundation for the purposes of improving and strengthening the process of teaching and learning science, math, and technology at all educational levels, elementary through college through the promotion of innovative educational programs.
- The Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence for the purposes of supporting the work of the Foundation in building critical thinking skills, experiential teaching methods, science literacy, and integrated approaches to learning and individual responsibility in achieving excellence.
- The remainder of the amounts available for distribution will go to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution for the preservation, maintenance, and display of space artifacts at the National Air and Space Museum (including the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center).

CBO Estimate

At the time of publication the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) had not yet scored this legislation.

Staff Contact

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