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'Star-Spangled Banner' coin boosts War of 1812 celebration

Baltimore Business Journal - by [Ryan Sharrow](#) Staff

The U.S. Senate has approved a bill to create a coin commemorating the War of 1812 and helping to fund a three-year state celebration surrounding the birth of “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

The bill, already approved by Congress, could net Maryland \$8.5 million. The bill will now go to President Barack Obama for his signature.

If approved, the U.S. Treasury will produce 500,000 \$1 silver coins, and 100,000 \$5 gold coins that would be issued beginning Jan. 1, 2012. Surcharges from the coin, which could total as much as \$8.5 million, would go to the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission.

Under the bill, the commission — a heavy-hitter group of local business leaders — would need to raise \$8.5 million in matching funds from the private sector.

Festivities around the celebration [could include including a parade of tall ships and a potential international soccer game](#) between the U.S. and England. Only two commemorative coins are approved a year by lawmakers. A coin honoring the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center has also been passed for 2012.

“The Star-Spangled Banner commemorative coin is the cornerstone for all of our bicentennial fundraising efforts,” Raymond “Chip” Mason, former CEO of [Legg Mason Inc.](#) and chairman of the bicentennial commission, said in a statement. “With this important development we are confident that foundation and corporate sponsors will join to create the funds necessary for the 1812 Commission.”

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