

Star Spangled Banner Commemorative Coin Act Passes Senate

By [Michael Zielinski](#) on August 5th, 2010

Categories: [Coin Legislation](#), [Featured Articles](#), [US Coins](#)



On August 2, 2010, **H.R. 2097: Star-Spangled Banner Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act** passed in the Senate. This bill seeks to authorize the production of \$5 gold coins and silver dollars to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner, the national anthem of the United States of America.

The bill H.R. 2097 was first introduced in the House of Representatives on April 23, 2009 by Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger of Maryland. The bill passed in the House on September 9, 2009. Since it has now passed in the Senate, only the President's signature is required for the bill to become law.

The commemorative coins would feature designs emblematic of the War of 1812, particularly the Battle of Baltimore, which served as the basis for the Star Spangled Banner. The final design selection for the coins will be made by the Treasury Secretary, after consultation with the Maryland war of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts, and review by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

The \$5 gold coins would have a weight of 8.539 grams, diameter of .985 inches, and composition of 90% gold and 10% alloy. The silver dollars would weigh 26.73 grams, have a diameter of 1.5 inches, and a composition of 90% silver and 10% copper. Maximum authorized mintages would be 100,000 of the \$5 gold coins and 500,000 of the silver dollars, across both proof and uncirculated versions. The coins may be issued during the calendar year beginning January 1, 2012.

Surcharges of \$35 for each gold coin and \$10 for each silver coin would be payable to the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission to support bicentennial activities, educational outreach programs, and the preservation and improvement of sites and structures related to the War of 1812.

A separate commemorative coin program for the year 2012 honoring the United States Infantry has already been approved. Under current law, only two commemorative coin programs may be approved for each year.