

CSHB

10

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FURTHER:

3/17/87

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE 5/16/87

Mr. President:

FINANCE

Committee considered CSHB 10(Fin) am

minting and sale of commemorative gold and silver medallions; efd.

and recommended:

replace with CS FOR \_\_\_\_\_ )  same title  
 or adopt \_\_\_\_\_ CS FOR \_\_\_\_\_ )  new title

attached amendment(s) and

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to \_\_\_\_\_

letter of intent adopted \_\_\_\_\_

Committee  attached or  adopted fiscal note(s)

new  updated or  previous

zero  fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

*[Handwritten signatures: Paul G. ...]*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten signature]* no PASS  
Chairman signature and recommendation

Committee Backup Attached

No. 2

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE**

**REQUEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Version: CSHB 10 (Fin)  
Publish Date: HOUSE 2/25/87

Revision Date: 2/21/87  
Title: Minting and sale of commemorative  
gold and silver medallions  
Sponsor: Davis  
Requestor: House Finance Committee

Agency Affected: Administration  
BRU: General Services & Supply  
Components: Purchasing

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
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<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
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**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

**ANALYSIS :** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The \$500 requested can be absorbed in the department's operating budget.

Prepared by: Al Adams, Chairman <sup>1/21</sup> Phone: 465-3706  
Division: House Finance Committee Date: 2/21/87

Approved by Commissioner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution (by preparer):  
Legislative Finance  
Legislative Sponsor  
Requestor  
Office of Management and Budget  
Impacted Agency(ies)  
Senate Secretary

Original sponsors: Davis, Koponen,  
Hudson and Hanley

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 10 (Finance) am  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION  
5 A BILL  
6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the minting and sale of commem-  
7 orative gold and silver medallions; and providing for  
8 an effective date."  
9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
10 \* Section 1. AS 44.09 is amended by adding a new section to read:  
11 Sec. 44.09.017. COMMEMORATIVE GOLD AND SILVER MEDALLIONS. (a)  
12 The Department of Administration shall contract or otherwise arrange  
13 for the minting and sale of Alaska commemorative medallions minted  
14 only from .999 fine gold and silver in weights determined by the  
15 commissioner of administration. Gold and silver mined in Alaska shall  
16 be used in the production of the medallions. The state shall receive  
17 a royalty from the sale of the medallions. The amount of the royalty  
18 shall be determined by the commissioner of administration.  
19 (b) One side of the commemorative medallions minted under this  
20 section shall contain the state seal. The design for the other side  
21 shall be determined in an annual contest conducted by the contractor  
22 under the supervision of the Department of Administration. Only  
23 designs using an Alaska theme and submitted by an Alaska resident may  
24 be considered in the contest. Payment for the winning design may not  
25 exceed \$1,000.  
26 (c) No later than January 20 of each year, the contractor shall  
27 submit to the legislature a report on the production and sale of  
28 medallions under this section.  
29 \* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE

Bill Version: CSHB 10 (Finance) am  
Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

REQUEST \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: March 12, 1987  
Title: An act relating to minting  
commemorative coins  
Sponsor: Representative Davis  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: Department of Administration  
BRU: General Services & Supply  
Components: Purchasing

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	*	*	*	*	*	*

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:	0	0	0	0	0	0
FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

\* We do not have any way of estimating the revenue this bill will generate.

Prepared By: Robert J. Link, Director *Robert J. Link* Phone: 465-2250  
Division: General Services & Supply Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by Commissioner: Garrey Peska *Garrey Peska* Date: 3/13/87  
Agency: Department of Administration

Distribution (by preparer):  
Legislative Finance  
Legislative Sponsor  
Requestor  
Office of Management and Budget  
Impacted Agency(ies)  
Senate Secretary

POSITION PAPER

HB 10

The bill requires the Department of Administration to contract for the production and distribution of Alaskan commemorative medallions.

We would issue an Invitation to Bid which required the successful contractor to be responsible for securing the Alaskan gold, producing the medallions, promoting and selling the medallions and paying the State a royalty. Additionally, we would be required to hold an annual design contest for the medallions.

We have no way of calculating any potential revenue, but believe it could equal or exceed advertising costs.

*Bob Link*  
Robert J. Link, Director  
Division of General Services & Supply

1/26/87  
Date

*Garrey Peska*  
Commissioner Garrey Peska  
Department of Administration

1/27/87  
Date



# Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Mike Davis

P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-4930/4941

Interim Office:  
P.O. Box 81435  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

**TO:** All Interested Persons

**FROM:** Rep. Mike Davis

**DATE:** February 23, 1987

**RE:** CSHB 10 (Fin); Relating to the minting and sale of commemorative gold and silver medallions

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This legislation directs the Department of Administration to arrange for the minting and sale of Alaska commemorative gold and silver medallions. The bill specifies that Alaskan gold and silver must be used in their production. One side of the medallions will bear the state seal, and the other a design selected through an annual contest. The state will receive a royalty from the sale of the medallions.

The purposes of CSHB 10 are to increase awareness of the Alaskan mining industry within and outside of the state, to support Alaskan businesses, and to generate modest amounts of revenue for the general fund. It is the intent of the sponsor that production and marketing of the medallions be handled by the private sector. Royalties from their sale should exceed the cost of the program to the state.

Based on the popularity of gold coins being produced by the U.S. Mint, the increasing number of visitors to Alaska, and the interest in this legislation shown by precious metal dealers, it is believed that Alaska gold and silver pieces would be well received by the public. If CSHB 10 were passed, Alaska would join Texas, California, and South Dakota in authorizing the production of state medallions.

February 23, 1987  
Rep. Davis

### Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About CSHB 10 (Fin)

1. What are the objectives of CSHB 10?

The goals of CSHB 10 are to increase awareness of the Alaskan mining industry within and outside of our state, to support Alaskan businesses, and to generate modest amounts of revenue for the general fund.

2. Why use the word "medallion" instead of "coin"?

A "coin" is legal tender. Article I, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution prohibits states from coining money.

3. What weight medallions will be issued?

CSHB 10 allows the Commissioner of the Department of Administration to determine which weights are most appropriate and marketable. One ounce and quarter ounce gold medallions and one ounce silver medallions will probably be desirable.

4. What will the retail price of the medallions be?

The retail price will be determined by the contractor who will take into account the cost of production and marketing, the royalty to the state, and his or her profit margin. The current price of gold U.S. Eagle coins is \$432.00 for one ounce, \$227.00 for one half ounce, \$119.00 for one quarter ounce, and \$52.50 for one tenth ounce. One ounce silver medallions generally cost less than \$30.00.

5. Why use .999 fine gold and silver?

The gold content of gold bullion pieces is ordinarily between .900 and .999.9. High gold content may make the Alaska medallions more appealing. Two of the most popular gold coins on the market, Canadian Maple Leaves and Chinese Pandas, are .999 fine (24 karats).

6. Can the medallions be produced in Alaska?

There is no mint in Alaska capable of refining and manufacturing bullion medallions. The Department of Administration intends to award a single bid for production and marketing of the medallions. An Alaskan firm could contract with an outside mint for their manufacture. Alaskans would receive the standard 5% bidder preference.

7. Can participation in the design contest be limited to Alaskan residents?

Legislative Counsel has advised the sponsor that preclusion of non-residents could present constitutional problems under the federal privileges and immunities clause and the state and federal equal protection clauses.

8. Why is payment for the winning design limited to \$1,000?

The \$1,000 cap is in keeping with the sponsors' intent that the state's initial investment in the program be held to a minimum. A gift of the first gold medallion, or a cash award, would be sufficient to attract Alaskan artists.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
RESEARCH AGENCY

P.O. Box Y, State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-3100  
Mail Stop 3100  
(907) 465-3991

December 3, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Alyce Hanley

ATTN: Cassie Russell

FROM: Mary Jennings *MJ*  
Legislative Analyst

RE: State-Issued Bullion Pieces  
Research Request 87.039

You requested information regarding the production of state-issued bullion pieces in California, South Dakota and Texas. You requested that we determine the following: what legislation and regulations in conjunction with the legislation were required to institute the programs; how the state share of the proceeds is determined and if state proceeds from the program are applied to a specific program area; who mints the pieces and how the mints were chosen; how the design for the pieces was chosen; what metals are used; how the prices are set; the sizes of pieces that are being produced; how the piece dealers are chosen; what type of record keeping system is utilized between the state and the dealers; and how the pieces are being marketed.

California

Legislation. During 1982, the state of California adopted sections 7551 through 7556 of the State Government Code, which allow the state to contract with a mint for the production of commemorative gold medallions.<sup>1</sup> On May 15, 1984, Rarities Mint of Anaheim, the only mint expressing interest in the program, was awarded a five-year production contract. The California Department of General Services State Office of Procurement drafted the contract and administers the program.

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<sup>1</sup>State-issued bullion pieces may be referred to as bullion medallions, or bullion medallions. The pieces may not be called coins, a term which can be used only for federally issued bullion pieces.

**Design.** According to Jeannine Gendar of the Office of Procurement of the Department of General Services, the design for the medallions was chosen by the legislature and consists of the Great Seal of the State of California on one side and the State Bear, the term "California Gold", the date, the mint mark, the size, the term ".999 fine", and 31 small stars on the other. The coins are minted in one-ounce, half-ounce, quarter-ounce and tenth-ounce weights. The prices for the medallions are set by the mint and reflect the market value of gold plus the cost of production. The medallions are exempt from sales tax.

**Royalties.** The state receives the following royalties for the medallions: one ounce, four dollars; half ounce, two dollars; quarter ounce, one dollar; and tenth ounce, fifty cents. Proceeds are deposited into the General Fund. Sales of the medallions began during August of 1984 and as of November 1, 1986, California has received \$71,000 in royalties from the sale of 17,900 ounces of gold. Royalties, which are paid in advance, are based upon a monthly production schedule submitted to the Department by Rarities. Rarities also submits a monthly statement of the number of medallions actually minted, including sizes and serial numbers. The mint must furnish a yearly statement detailing sales. The department reserves the right to audit all records.

**Marketing.** Rarities conducts and pays for the cost of all marketing and advertising of the medallions although the state sets certain guidelines. The contract states that the advertising must be aggressive and on the national level in the advertising medium of Rarities' choice. All advertising is submitted to the department before publication for review.

### South Dakota

**Legislation.** During 1985, the South Dakota Legislature passed Senate Bill 191, which allows the state to contract with a South Dakota mint for the production of bullion pieces. Two bullion programs are currently being developed. One program, aimed at South Dakota residents, will offer gold, silver, and bronze medallions commemorating the state's centennial and the other will offer gold and silver bullion on a national level. Production is planned to begin in early 1987. The State Bureau of Administration, which oversees the programs, is currently in the process of drafting a contract with Tri-State Refining and Investment, the only mint in South Dakota.

**Design.** Commemorative medallions will be issued in five-ounce, one-ounce and half-ounce weights and will be sold singly and in sets. Jewelry and belt buckles will also be produced. All medallions will bear the state seal on the front and a mother and child standing on the prairie on the reverse. The reverse side design was obtained in a contest open only to South Dakota residents. The medallion will be produced through 1989, the state's centennial.

Representative Hanley  
December 3, 1986  
Page 3

The national program of gold and silver bullion is legislated to be a permanent program. The pieces will be minted with the state seal on one side and a bison on the reverse. The bison, which was second in the commemorative design contest, was chosen at the discretion of the bureau. Five, two, one, one-half, one-fourth, and one-tenth ounce pieces will be minted.

**Royalties.** Under the terms of the contract, Tri-State will present a monthly statement of sales to the mint and pay royalties based on a percentage of the wholesale price of pieces sold. According to Mr. Moisan of the Bureau of Administration, the percentage has not yet been determined. The price, which will be set by the mint, will reflect the market value of the metals plus production costs. The bureau will have the right to audit all records.

The proceeds from the sale of the programs will go to the construction of the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, South Dakota. The project is estimated to cost \$6 million. The legislature will determine other uses for the royalties when financing for construction of the center has been fulfilled.

**Marketing.** Under the terms of the contract, the state will assist Tri-State with the marketing of the commemorative medallions. The marketing of the bullion pieces will be performed solely by the mint under guidelines set by the state. The contract lists two nationally known dealers that the mint must contact and also names several newspapers that the mint must utilize for advertising. The contract also states that the mint must use radio and television. All advertisement must be sent to the Bureau of Administration for approval.

## Texas

**Legislation.** During May of 1985, the Texas Legislature adopted Senate Bill 1002, which created a program for production of materials to commemorate the Texas Sesquicentennial during 1986. A section of the bill allowed for the state to contract with private manufacturers for the production of gold and silver bullion medallions. The Texas Sesquicentennial Commission, which administers the program, contracted with Colonial Coins and Silver Creations, both of Texas, to strike the pieces. The contracts are scheduled to be renewed January 1, 1987. If no additional legislation is passed, the program will end on June 30, 1987.

**Design.** The legislation mandates that all pieces depict the front and back of the Great Seal of the State of Texas, which is a star on the front and the six flags of Texas on the back. The pieces are also inscribed with .999 fine, the weight, 1986 and the mint mark. One-ounce, half-ounce, quarter-ounce and tenth-ounce gold pieces and a one-ounce silver piece are being produced.

Representative Hanley  
December 3, 1986  
Page 4

**Royalties.** The mints present a monthly sales statement to the state and pay royalties of two percent of the wholesale price of the pieces sold. The price reflects the current market value of the metals plus production costs. The pieces are exempt from state sales tax. Sales of the gold bullion began in July of 1986 and the silver was offered for sale in September. According to Joanne Brown, Marketing Product Director for the commission, the state has received approximately \$4,500 in royalties thus far. As mandated by the legislation, the proceeds from the sale of all sesquicentennial products go to the Sesquicentennial Fund, which is divided equally between the Texas Tourism Commission and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

**Marketing.** The mints are responsible for the marketing and advertising of the bullion. All advertising must be approved by the commission 30 days before publication. The advertising medium is at the discretion of the mints.

\* \* \* \*

I hope you find this information useful. I have attached pertinent legislation and a copy of the production contract from California. I have requested similar materials from South Dakota and Texas and I will forward them to you when I receive them. I have also attached a newspaper article regarding gold and silver medallions being offered by the University of Alaska. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

MJ

Attachments

seems to me that death  
ity. Marketing, period, is all they seem concerned  
about." "Family of Exp...

# States strike up gold bullion piece presses

By Michele Orzano

South Dakota may soon join California and Texas as a producer of bullion pieces. The appeal of royalties being deposited in the state's treasury and the chance to commemorate historically significant events in the state has enhanced the idea of state-issued bullion pieces.

Both California and Texas bullion pieces are exempt from state taxes while South Dakota has yet to tackle that question. California bullion pieces have been on the market for more than a year while Texas just released its first bullion piece in early May. South Dakota is in the process of conducting a statewide design contest and expects to release its first bullion piece

sometime during the state's centennial in 1989.

The producers of the California pieces think it is fitting that California was the first state to issue its own bullion pieces since California was the origin of the 1840s Gold Rush. Collectors and investors can buy California Gold in 1-ounce, half-ounce, quarter-ounce and soon a tenth-ounce size. The California legislature authorized the production of gold bullion pieces in 1983 in an effort to bring more revenue into a sagging state treasury, according to Ian Simpson, president of Rarities Mint which has a contract to strike the pieces.

California — whose nickname the "Golden State" can still evoke images of scruffy miners hauling sacks of gold into the town assay office — has survived the waves of dreamers whose eyes reflected the gold they envisioned hidden just a shovel scratch away. Now more than 100 years later and several hundred miles to the south of where it all started, is the Rarities Mint in Anaheim which produced some 12,000 pieces of California Gold in 1985.

## Seeks Japanese outlets

"We strike as many as we can sell. We only struck 500 in 1984 because it was around the time of the Olympics," Simpson said. "Once the one-tenth ounce is released we will be selling it in Japan to compete in their 'gold rush' they are experiencing."

The California general fund receives \$4 for each

ounce of California Gold sold, Simpson said, but added he would like to see those royalties go to a more specific fund, something for the handicapped or elderly. He said legislation is being discussed now to direct the legislature towards that goal.

Although the original legislation mandated only California-mined gold be used in the production of the pieces, Simpson said the law was recently amended to allow purchase of gold from any American based mine. In keeping with the theme of a strong California and America, the obverse features the California brown bear while the reverse bears the Great Seal of the State of California.

Please turn to page 19



California Gold is among several state-issued gold bullion pieces.



Texas has entered the gold bullion piece market with this six flags design.

# States use gold to inflate state coffers

For the 1986 issues, Simpson said the bear design has been modified to make the bear appear bolder looking and the 31 stars surrounding the bear will appear more three dimensional. The issue date will be at the bottom of the obverse rather than to the side as in previous issues.

"We envision these will surpass the popularity of the [Chinese] Panda [gold bullion coin] — It's a piece of American history," Simpson said. "We like to document history in story format."

The bullion pieces are sold nationwide by coin dealers and direct from the Rarities Mint. Simpson said he does not believe the upcoming U.S. bullion coins will hinder the sale of California Gold because his product is not monetized and is pure gold (the U.S. coins will have a fineness of .917, but will contain a full measure of pure gold). The price is spot plus 4.5 percent which averages out to \$15 to \$18 over spot, he said.

Rarities also issues California Gold Proof sets on a limited basis with 1,000 sets in 1986.

## Texas bullion pieces

Texas is hoping the increased interest in U.S. gold bullion pieces will continue and help sales of the Texas gold and silver bullion pieces released this year.

The 1-ounce bullion pieces are making their debut in Texas to coincide with the state's Independence Sesquicentennial which makes the prospect of boosting the Texas Historical Society's bank account nearly a sure thing.

That is where the profits from the sale of the Texas pieces is to go, according to legislation authorizing the 1-ounce silver and the gold 1-ounce, half-ounce, quarter-ounce and tenth-ounce sizes.

Dr. G.W. Vogt of Colonial Coins in Houston, which has the contract to strike the pieces, says public interest has been good considering the pieces just recently became available. All five pieces depict the front and back of the Great Seal of the State of Texas.

"Few people know about the back of the seal. In 1961 the designers of the Texas Revolution succeeded in getting the state to adopt the reverse," he said. The reverse shows the six sons of Texas flanking three important events in Texas history — the Alamo, the "Come and Take It Cannon" and a broken lance representing the break with Mexico.

Vogt said the story behind the cannon is another interesting bit of Texas history. In the early 1830s, when Texas was still part of Mexico, the Comanche Indians were attacking the town of Goliad and the citizens asked the Mexican government for help in fending off the attacks.

The Mexican government sent a cannon for Goliad's defense. Then, during the Texas revolution when the Mexicans asked for the cannon back, the residents of Goliad told them to "Come and Take It," Vogt said, thus marking an important turnaround in the revolution. As the Texans fled from the advancing Mexican army, they took the cannon with them and buried it in the desert, never to be found, he said.

The fractional pieces will be in production by June 10, he said. All five pieces will be issued every year and the design and the date will change annually, he said.

He said the popularity of the bullion pieces will probably center in Texas although they are available all across the country.

"Most Texans are proud to be Texans and I feel these will be as popular an item as the [Canadian] Maple Leaf and [South African] Krugerrand," he said.

## South Dakota considers

By the end of June, South Dakota residents will know the design to be used on the limited editions of 5-ounce gold, silver and bronze and the 1-ounce gold, silver and bronze bullion pieces.

That's the deadline date for entries from South Dakota artists to be submitted to the design contest, according to John Molsan, chairman of the centennial coin contest. The Great Seal of the State of South Dakota will grace the obverse and a design incorporating some aspect of South Dakota will be on the reverse.

Molsan said a \$1,000 prize will be given to the winning artist and Homestake Mining Co. will donate 1 ounce of gold to the winner. After the design is selected in a ceremony at the South Dakota Capital Building July 10, Tri-State Refining and Engineering in Sioux Falls, S.D., will begin striking and marketing the bullion pieces.

The bullion pieces will be sold in 5-ounce and 1-ounce sets of gold, silver and bronze and will be numbered for the limited editions. After those limited edition sets are produced, the remaining pieces will be struck and be 1.25 inches in diameter.

"We want to stay with collector interests but we also want to gear it towards something a grade school kid could have a souvenir of the centennial," he said. The leg

authorized centennial jewelry to be made in the state's South Dakota Black Hills gold, he said.

A percentage of the proceeds will go toward construction of the Dakota Heritage Center to house the relics and other historic memorabilia of the state now stored in a leaky basement of a museum, Molsan said. With that as a goal, supporters are looking for this to be a long term project, he said.

"We're at liberty to do whatever the market will bear," Molsan said. "We're billing this as the only state that produces and mines its own bullion pieces since we sell our gold to California."

By law individual states cannot strike legal tender coins, although they may strike commemorative medals or bullion pieces. According to Ken Gubin, general counsel for the U.S. Mint, many people misuse the word coin but the difference between coin and a medal is the legal tender status of the coin.

Gubin said Article I, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution specifically prohibits states from coining money and he called it "highly inadvisable" to use the term "coin" when referring to the state-issued bullion pieces.

He said if an advertisement for the product would contain the word "coin" it might be a matter for the U.S. Postal Service or the Secret Service to look into.

"The Mint does not have any enforcement powers so we would refer it to the appropriate agency," Gubin said. "While it is an easy enough mistake to make in advertising, you have to be a little bit more careful [in that] than in casual conversation."



**COMMEMORATED**—The official state fossil, the woolly mammoth, left, and the University of Alaska Museum at Fairbanks have been commemorated through the creation of a numbered set of gold and silver coins. Local artist Jim Behlke designed the coins, and money raised from their sale goes to the museum's endowment fund. The museum is the only natural history museum in Alaska.

*Photos courtesy UAFairbanks*

## Gold, silver coin set designates woolly mammoth state fossil

The Alaska Legislature made the woolly mammoth the official state fossil earlier this year, and that action is now being commemorated through the striking of a gold and silver coin set.

The idea to make the long-haired ancestor of the elephant the state fossil began with Ed McLaughlin of the University of Alaska-Fairbanks School of Mineral Engineering. McLaughlin presented the concept to state Sen. Bettye Fahrenkamp, D-Fairbanks, who then drafted the necessary legislation and saw it through to approval.

The coins feature the words "University of Alaska Museum—Preserving Alaska's Heritage," and the mammoth on one side, and the university seal on the other. Five hundred gold and 4,000 silver coins have been struck and numbered.



**DISPLAYS GOLD COINS**—Fairbanks artist Jim Behlke displays gold coins he designed to commemorate the naming of the woolly mammoth as the official state fossil. Money raised through the sale of the numbered coins will go to the University of Alaska Museum's endowment fund.

Upon passage of the legislation, Jerry Cleworth of Alaska State Coin Investments approached the university with the idea of having a coin struck for the occasion and to highlight the work of the university's museum, the only natural history museum in the state.

Museum director Dr. Basil Beirick obtained permission to use the Great Seal of the University of Alaska on the coins. UAFairbanks artist Jim Behlke was commissioned to draw the portrait of the woolly mammoth featured on the coins. To design the reverse worked with Beirick to design the reverse of the coins as well as possible.

The coins will be sold through the University of Alaska Museum at Fairbanks.

heritage, and the mammoth on one side, and the university seal on the other. Five hundred gold and 4,000 silver coins have been struck and numbered. They are now being sold at the University of Alaska Museum's endowment fund.

Money raised through the sale of the numbered coins will go to the University of Alaska Museum's endowment fund.

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE

Bill Version: HB 10  
Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

REQUEST \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: An Act Relating To Minting  
Commemorative Coins

Agency Affected: Department of Administration  
BRU: General Services & Supply

Sponsor: Davis  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Components: Purchasing

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	0	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	0	*	*	*	*	*

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

The contractual services funds will pay for advertising for the design competition and invitation to bid for the contractor. We would require the contractor to fund the design competition prize. We have no way to estimate potential revenue from program.\*

Prepared By: Bob Link  
Division: General Services & Supply

Phone: 465-2250  
Date: 1/23/87

Approved by Commissioner: Garrey Peska  
Agency: Department of Administration

Date: 1/27/87

Distribution (by preparer):

Legislative Finance  
Legislative Sponsor  
Requestor  
Office of Management and Budget  
Impacted Agency(ies)  
Senate Secretary

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

ANCHORAGE STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU ALASKA 99801  
407 465 2800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

January 26, 1987

SUBJECT: SSHB 10 - Limiting medallion design awards to  
Alaska residents

TO: Representative Mike Davis

FROM: Keith B. Levy<sup>KBL</sup>  
Legislative Counsel

The provisions of SSHB 10 would require the Department of Administration to arrange for the minting and sale of gold and silver Alaska commemorative medallions. You have asked whether it would be unconstitutional to provide that the contest for the design of the medallions must be limited to Alaska residents. This proposal is similar to the concept of an Alaska bidder preference, except that it is more than a preference since it would completely preclude nonresidents from participating in the design contest. Such a provision could present constitutional problems under the federal privileges and immunities clause and the state and federal equal protection clauses.

In Irby-Northface v. Commonwealth Electric Co., 664 P.2d 557 (Alaska 1983), the Alaska Supreme Court considered an issue related to the Alaska bidder preference, but declined to address the question of whether the preference is unconstitutional. However, two dissenting justices expressed the opinion that a resident bidder preference is unconstitutional because it discriminates economically between residents and nonresidents without sufficient justification. The two dissenting justices based their opinion on Lynden Transport, Inc., v. State, 532 P.2d 700 (Alaska 1975). In that case the court struck down a statutory amendment which gave resident motor freight carriers certain rights not granted to nonresident motor freight carriers:

A discrimination between residents and non-residents based solely on the object of assisting the one class over the other economically can not be upheld under

Representative Davis  
January 26, 1987  
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either the privileges and immunities or equal protection clauses. . . .

Benefiting economic interests of residents over non-residents is not a purpose which may constitutionally vindicate legislation. . . .

Lynden, at 710 - 711. Under Lynden it would appear that any bidder preference is subject to challenge. Your proposal goes far beyond a bidder preference and therefore would be open to attack under the holding in Lynden.

In January of this year, the Alaska Supreme Court struck down Alaska's local hire law as violating the privileges and immunities clause of article IV, sec. 2, of the United States Constitution. Robison v. Francis, 713 P.2d 259 (Alaska 1986). Citing the United States Supreme Court, the court said:

The primary purpose of this clause is to prevent states from enacting measures which discriminate against non-residents for reasons of economic protectionism.

Robison, at 263. The court ruled that employment in the construction industry is a fundamental right subject to protection under the privileges and immunities clause. Robison, at 265. Since the state could not show that non-residents are a "peculiar source of the evil of unemployment," the court found there was insufficient justification for denying nonresidents the right of employment.

The Robison court did observe that the state is afforded greater deference in discriminating against nonresidents where it is acting as a "market participant" rather than a "market regulator." In manufacturing medallions, the state is certainly acting as a market participant. The argument could be made that the state has the right to limit the design of an Alaska commemorative medallion to Alaska residents, since the medallion is to be an artistic expression that is inherently Alaskan. Moreover, the state could argue, it is not limiting all state purchases to state residents, only those purchases that are specifically "Alaskan" in nature. On the other hand, the court could view the design award as just another procurement and it is clear, under the cases cited above, that the state cannot limit procurements entirely to Alaska residents.

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Accordingly, there is at least a risk that your proposal could be struck down if enacted into law.

You should note that as currently written, SSHB 10 requires only that the design be of "an Alaska theme." Otherwise, discretion in selecting the design is left to the Department of Administration. There is nothing to prevent the department from advertising the contest only in Alaska, increasing the likelihood that a state resident would be awarded the contract, without taking the chance of running afoul of the constitution.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

KBL:mkr  
m8/049



# Alaska State Legislature

Representative Mike Davis

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Interim Office:  
P.O. Box 81435  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

TO: Members of the Senate Finance Committee  
FROM: Rep. Mike Davis *Mike*  
DATE: May 9, 1987  
RE: CSHB 10 (Fin) am; Relating to the minting and sale  
of commemorative gold and silver medallions

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CSHB 10 (Fin) directs the Department of Administration to arrange for the minting and sale of Alaska commemorative gold and silver medallions.

The purposes of CSHB 10 are: to increase awareness of the Alaskan mining industry within and outside of the state; to support Alaskan businesses; and to generate modest amounts of revenue for the general fund. Production and marketing of the medallions will be handled by the private sector. The state will receive a royalty from their sale.

The bill specifies that Alaskan gold and silver must be used in production. One side of the medallions will bear the state seal, and the other a design selected through an annual contest. Only designs using an Alaska theme and submitted by an Alaska resident may be considered in the contest. The winning artist may receive an award not to exceed \$1000.

Based on the popularity of gold coins being produced by the U.S. Mint, the increasing number of visitors to Alaska, and the interest in this legislation shown by precious metal dealers, it is believed that Alaska gold and silver pieces will be well received by the public. If CSHB 10 becomes law, Alaska will join Texas, California, and South Dakota in authorizing the production of state medallions.

Rep. Mike Davis  
March 9, 1987

Sectional Analysis of CSHB 10 (Fin) am

An Act Relating to the Minting and Sale  
of Commemorative Gold and Silver Medallions

Section 1 AS 44.09 is amended by adding a new section:

(a) Authorizes the Department of Administration to contract for the minting and sale of the medallions in weights determined by the commissioner. Gold and silver mined in Alaska must be used in the production of the medallions. The state shall receive a royalty from their sale to be determined by the commissioner.

(b) Governs the medallion design. One side of the medallions shall contain the state seal. The design for the other side shall be determined in an annual contest conducted by the contractor under the supervision of the Department. Only designs using an Alaska theme and submitted by an Alaska resident may be considered in the contest. Payment for the winning design may not exceed \$1,000.

(c) Requires the contractor to submit to the legislature an annual report of the production and sale of the medallions.

Section 2 Immediate effective date

March 9, 1987  
Rep. Davis

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About CSHB 10 (Fin) am

1. What are the objectives of CSHB 10?

The goals of CSHB 10 are to increase awareness of the Alaskan mining industry within and outside of our state, to support Alaskan businesses, and to generate modest amounts of revenue for the general fund.

2. Why use the word "medallion" instead of "coin"?

A "coin" is legal tender. Article I, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution prohibits states from coining money.

3. What weight medallions will be issued?

CSHB 10 allows the Commissioner of the Department of Administration to determine which weights are most appropriate and marketable. One ounce and quarter ounce gold medallions and one ounce silver medallions will probably be desirable.

4. What will the retail price of the medallions be?

The retail price will be determined by the contractor who will take into account the cost of production and marketing, the royalty to the state, and his or her profit margin. The current price of gold U.S. Eagle coins is \$432.00 for one ounce, \$227.00 for one half ounce, \$119.00 for one quarter ounce, and \$52.50 for one tenth ounce. One ounce silver medallions generally cost less than \$30.00.

5. Why use .999 fine gold and silver?

The gold content of gold bullion pieces is ordinarily between .900 and .999.9. High gold content may make the Alaska medallions more appealing. Two of the most popular gold coins on the market, Canadian Maple Leaves and Chinese Pandas, are .999 fine (24 karats).

6. Can the medallions be produced in Alaska?

There is no mint in Alaska capable of refining and manufacturing bullion medallions. The Department of Administration intends to award a single bid for production and marketing of the medallions. An Alaskan firm could contract with an outside mint for their manufacture. Alaskans would receive the standard 5% bidder preference.

seems to me that death  
ity. Marketing, period, is all they seem concerned  
about."

"Family of Nations"

# States strike up gold bullion piece presses

By Michele Orzano

South Dakota may soon join California and Texas as a producer of bullion pieces. The appeal of royalties being deposited in the state's treasury and the chance to commemorate historically significant events in the state has enhanced the idea of state-issued bullion pieces.

Both California and Texas bullion pieces are exempt from state taxes while South Dakota has yet to tackle that question. California bullion pieces have been on the market for more than a year while Texas just released its first bullion piece in early May. South Dakota is in the process of conducting a statewide design contest and expects to release its first bullion piece

sometime during the state's centennial in 1989.

The producers of the California pieces think it is fitting that California was the first state to issue its own bullion pieces since California was the origin of the 1840s Gold Rush. Collectors and investors can buy California Gold in 1-ounce, half-ounce, quarter-ounce and soon a tenth-ounce size. The California legislature authorized the production of gold bullion pieces in 1983 in an effort to bring more revenue into a sagging state treasury, according to Ian Simpson, president of Rarities Mint which has a contract to strike the pieces.

California — whose nickname the "Golden State" can still evoke images of scruffy miners hauling sacks of gold into the town assay office — has survived the waves of dreamers whose eyes reflected the gold they envisioned hidden just a shovel scratch away. Now more than 100 years later and several hundred miles to the south of where it all started, is the Rarities Mint in Anaheim which produced some 12,000 pieces of California Gold in 1985.

## Seeks Japanese outlets

"We strike as many as we can sell. We only struck 500 in 1984 because it was around the time of the Olympics," Simpson said. "Once the one-tenth ounce is released we will be selling it in Japan to compete in their 'gold rush' they are experiencing."

The California general fund receives \$4 for each

ounce of California Gold sold, Simpson said, but added he would like to see those royalties go to a more specific fund, something for the handicapped or elderly. He said legislation is being discussed now to direct the legislature towards that goal.

Although the original legislation mandated only California-mined gold be used in the production of the pieces, Simpson said the law was recently amended to allow purchase of gold from any American-based mine. In keeping with the theme of a strong California and America, the obverse features the California brown bear while the reverse bears the Great Seal of the State of California.

Please turn to page 19



California Gold is among several state-issued gold bullion pieces.



Texas has entered the gold bullion piece market with this six flags design.

# States use gold to inflate state coffers



For the 1986 issues, Simpson said the bear design has been modified to make the bear appear bolder looking and the 31 stars surrounding the bear will appear more three dimensional. The issue date will be at the bottom of the obverse rather than to the side as in previous issues.

"We envision these will surpass the popularity of the [Chinese] Panda [gold bullion coin] — It's a piece of American history," Simpson said. "We like to document history in story format."

The bullion pieces are sold nationwide by coin dealers and direct from the Rarities Mint. Simpson said he does not believe the upcoming U.S. bullion coins will hinder the sale of California Gold because his product is not monetized and is pure gold (the U.S. coins will have a fineness of .917, but will contain a full measure of pure gold). The price is spot plus 4.5 percent which averages out to \$15 to \$18 over spot, he said.

Rarities also issues California Gold Proof sets on a limited basis with 1,000 sets in 1986.

## Texas bullion pieces

Texas is hoping the increased interest in U.S. gold bullion pieces will continue and help sales of the Texas gold and silver bullion pieces released this year.

The 1-ounce bullion pieces are making their debut in Texas to coincide with the state's Independence Sesquicentennial which makes the prospect of boosting the Texas Historical Society's bank account nearly a sure thing.

That is where the profits from the sale of the Texas pieces is going, according to legislation authorizing the 1-ounce silver and gold 1-ounce, half-ounce, quarter-ounce and tenth-ounce sizes.

Dr. G.W. Vogt of Colonial Coins in Houston, which has the contract to strike the pieces, says public interest has been good considering the pieces just recently became available. All five pieces depict the front and back of the Great Seal of the State of Texas.

Few people know about the back of the seal. In 1961 the fighters of the Texas Revolution succeeded in getting the state to adopt the reverse," he said. The reverse shows the six states of Texas flanking three important events in Texas history: the Alamo, the "Come and Take It Cannon" and a broken lance representing the break with Mexico.

Vogt said the story behind the cannon is another interesting bit of Texas history. In the early 1830s, when Texas was still part of Mexico, the Comanche Indians were attacking the town of Goliad and the citizens asked the Mexican government for help in fending off the attacks.

The Mexican government sent a cannon for Goliad's defense. Then, during the Texas revolution when the Mexicans asked for the cannon back, the residents of Goliad told them to "Come and Take It," Vogt said, thus marking an important turnaround in the revolution. As the Texans fled from the advancing Mexican army, they took the cannon with them and buried it in the desert, never to be found, he said.

The fractional pieces will be in production by June 10, he said. All five pieces will be issued every year and the design and the date will change annually, he said.

He said the popularity of the bullion pieces will probably center in Texas although they are available all across the country.

"Most Texans are proud to be Texans and I feel these will be as popular an item as the [Canadian] Maple Leaf and [South African] Krugerrand," he said.

## South Dakota considers

By the end of June, South Dakota residents will know the design to be used on the limited editions of 5-ounce gold, silver and bronze and the 1-ounce gold, silver and bronze bullion pieces.

That's the deadline date for entries from South Dakota artists to be submitted to the design contest, according to John Molsan, chairman of the centennial coin contest. The Great Seal of the State of South Dakota will grace the obverse and a design incorporating some aspect of South Dakota will be on the reverse.

Molsan said a \$1,000 prize will be given to the winning artist and Homestake Mining Co. will donate 1 ounce of gold to the winner. After the design is selected in a ceremony at the South Dakota Capital Building July 10, Tri-State Refining and Engineering in Sioux Falls, S.D., will begin striking and marketing the bullion pieces.

The bullion pieces will be sold in 5-ounce and 1-ounce sets of gold, silver and bronze and will be numbered for the limited editions. After those limited edition sets are produced, the remaining pieces will be struck and be 1.25 inches in diameter.

"We want to stay with collector interests but we also want to gear it towards something a grade school kid could have a souvenir of the centennial," he said. The pieces

authorized centennial jewelry to be made in the district of South Dakota Black Hills gold, he said.

A percentage of the proceeds will go toward construction of the Dakota Heritage Center to house the relics and other historic memorabilia of the state now stored in a leaky basement of a museum, Molsan said. With that as a goal, supporters are looking for this to be a long-term project, he said.

"We're at liberty to do whatever the market will bear," Molsan said. "We're billing this as the only state that produces and mines its own bullion pieces since we sell our gold to California."

By law individual states cannot strike legal tender coins, although they may strike commemorative medals or bullion pieces. According to Ken Gubin, general counsel for the U.S. Mint, many people misuse the word coin but the difference between a coin and a medal is the legal tender status of the coin.

Gubin said Article I, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution specifically prohibits states from coining money and he called it "highly inadvisable" to use the term "coin" when referring to the state-issued bullion pieces.

He said if an advertisement for the product would contain the word "coin" it might be a matter for the U.S. Postal Service or the Secret Service to look into.

"The Mint does not have any enforcement powers so we would refer it to the appropriate agency," Gubin said. "While it is an easy enough mistake to make in advertising, you have to be a little bit more careful [in that] than in casual conversation."



**COMMEMORATED**—The official state fossil, the woolly mammoth, left, and the University of Alaska Museum at Fairbanks have been commemorated through the creation of a numbered set of gold and silver coins. Local artist Jim Behlke designed the coins, and money raised from their sale goes to the museum's endowment fund. The museum is the only natural history museum in Alaska.

*Photos courtesy: UAFairbanks*

## Gold, silver coin set designates woolly mammoth state fossil

The Alaska Legislature made the woolly mammoth the official state fossil earlier this year, and that action is now being commemorated through the striking of a gold and silver coin set.

The idea to make the long-haired ancestor of the elephant the state fossil began with Ed McLaughlin of the University of Alaska-Fairbanks' School of Mineral Engineering. McLaughlin presented the concept to state Sen. Bettye Fahrenkamp, D-Fairbanks, who then drafted the necessary legislation and saw it through to approval.

The coins feature the words "University of Alaska Museum—Preserving Alaska's Heritage," and the mammoth on one side, and the university seal on the other. Five hundred gold and 4,000 silver coins have been struck and numbered.

Upon passage of the legislation, Jerry Cleworth of Alaska Rare Coin Investments approached the university with the idea of having a coin struck for the occasion and to highlight the work of the university's museum, the only natural history museum in the state.

Museum director, Dr. Basil Hedrick, obtained permission to use the Great Seal of the University of Alaska on the coins, and Fairbanks artist Jim Behlke was commissioned to draw the portrait of the woolly mammoth to be used on the coins. To his credit, Behlke worked with museum personnel to make the design as accurate as possible.

The coins feature the words "University of Alaska Museum—Preserving Alaska's



**DISPLAYS GOLD COINS**—Fairbanks artist Jim Behlke displays gold coins he designed to commemorate the naming of the woolly mammoth as the official state fossil. Money raised through the sale of the numbered coins will go to the University of Alaska Museum's endowment fund.

*With files by Jim M. ...*

Heritage," and the mammoth on one side, and the university seal on the other. Five hundred gold and 4,000 silver coins have been struck and numbered. They are now being sold at the museum's Rare Alaska Rare Coin Investments, and at 2000 ... of ... with

copies from the ... donated the museum's endowment fund. The silver coins ... of ... and ... interested in buying the coins ... information ...

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

FURTHER:

FINANCE

3/9/87

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE 3-16-87

Mr. President:

STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered CSHB 10(Fin)am

minting and sale of commemorative gold and silver medallions; efd.

and recommended:

replace with CS FOR \_\_\_\_\_ )  same title  
 or adopt \_\_\_\_\_ CS FOR \_\_\_\_\_ )  new title

attached amendment(s) and

*ms* do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to \_\_\_\_\_

letter of intent adopted \_\_\_\_\_

Committee  attached or  adopted fiscal note(s)

new  updated or  previous - *House*

zero  fiscal impact

MEMBERS SIGNING DO PASS

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

*1* *Joe Fair*  
*1* *Rich Bell*  
*1* *Kirrie Hunter*  
*1* *Lee Josephson*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*1* *Senator Mark ...*  
Chairman signature and recommendation

Committee Backup Attached