

1 WHEREAS, the GPO has a harsh effect on hundreds of thousands of citizens and
2 undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

3 WHEREAS, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than
4 half a million individuals nationally are affected by the GPO; and

5 WHEREAS, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or
6 local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment
7 covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

8 WHEREAS, the WEP unfairly reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an
9 averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for
10 affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant
11 in employment not covered under Social Security; and

12 WHEREAS, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion
13 of the Social Security benefits that they earned themselves; and

14 WHEREAS, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than
15 one and a half million individuals nationally are affected by the WEP; and

16 WHEREAS, in certain circumstances, both the WEP and GPO can be applied to a
17 qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and in
18 combination eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the
19 survivor; and

20 WHEREAS, because of the calculation characteristics of the GPO and the WEP, they
21 have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government
22 jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

23 WHEREAS, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its
24 citizens and to encourage them to live here, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions
25 compromise their quality of life; and

26 WHEREAS, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing everyday
27 as more and more people reach retirement age; and

28 WHEREAS, individuals drastically affected by the GPO or WEP may have no choice
29 but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings

1 accumulated during this return to work can further reduce the Social Security benefits the
2 individual is entitled to; and

3 WHEREAS, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO
4 and the WEP can only be enacted by congress; and

5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
6 urge and request every state legislature in the nation to call upon their congressional
7 Representatives and Senators to take all such actions as are necessary to review the
8 Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit
9 reductions and to eliminate or reduce them.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge
11 and request the attorney general of Louisiana to explore civil and other legal actions to
12 restore public employees' social security benefits that they have paid for and earned, and to
13 join with other affected states to recover rights and benefits of public employees.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
15 attorney general of Louisiana and the presiding officers of each state legislature and to the
16 officers of the United States Senate and House of Representatives and to each member of
17 the Louisiana congressional delegation and the president of the United States.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 11 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

Requests congress and state legislatures to request that congress review and eliminate the provisions of federal law which reduce Social Security benefits for persons receiving pension from federal, state, or local government retirement systems.

Requests the attorney general of La. to seek legal actions to restore benefits lost to the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision(WEP).