

BY REPRESENTATIVES JONES, PEARSON, AND HILFERTY

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review

3 and consider eliminating provisions of federal law which reduce Social Security

4 benefits for those receiving pension benefits from federal, state, or local government

5 retirement or pension systems, plans, or funds.

6 WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the

7 Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security

8 benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security

9 benefits payable to any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

10 WHEREAS, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal,

11 state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a

12 Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

13 WHEREAS, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit

14 by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension

15 benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social

16 Security benefit even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

17 WHEREAS, the GPO has a harsh effect on hundreds of thousands of citizens and

18 undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

19 WHEREAS, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than

20 half a million individuals nationally are affected by the GPO; and

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

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

8 WHEREAS, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion
9 of the Social Security benefits that they earn themselves; and

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day
23 as more and more people reach retirement age; and

24 WHEREAS, individuals drastically affected by the GPO or WEP may have no choice
25 but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings
26 accumulated during this return to work can further reduce the Social Security benefits the
27 individual is entitled to; and

28 WHEREAS, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO
29 and the WEP can only be enacted by congress.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
2 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the
3 Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit
4 reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
6 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
7 United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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)]

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Jones

Memorializes congress to review and eliminate the provisions of federal law which reduce Social Security benefits for persons receiving pensions from federal, state, or local governmental retirement systems.