



General Assembly

**House Joint
Resolution No. 215**

February Session, 2024

LCO No. 1737



Referred to Committee on LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Introduced by:
(LAB)

**RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO REPEAL THE
GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFSET AND THE WINDFALL
ELIMINATION PROVISION.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, the Social Security Act contains two provisions, the
2 Government Pension Offset, which reduces the spouse and survivor
3 Social Security benefit and the Windfall Elimination Provision, which
4 reduces the earned Social Security benefits payable to any person who
5 also receives a public pension; and

6 WHEREAS, the Government Pension Offset prohibits some public
7 employees who receive a federal, state or local government pension
8 from both collecting such employee's own pension and receiving full
9 Social Security benefits as a surviving spouse; and

10 WHEREAS, an estimated nine out of ten public employees lose their
11 entire spousal benefit under the Government Pension Offset formula,
12 regardless of whether such employee's spouse paid Social Security taxes
13 for many years; and

14 WHEREAS, the Windfall Elimination Provision reduces the Social

15 Security benefits for those employees who have earned a federal, state
16 or local government pension and who did not pay into Social Security
17 while employed as a public employee; and

18 WHEREAS, in certain instances employees who have earned a
19 federal, state or local government pension, have at some point in such
20 employees' career been employed in jobs where such employees were
21 required to pay Social Security taxes and such employees paid Social
22 Security taxes for the required period to qualify for such benefits; and

23 WHEREAS, the Windfall Elimination Provision can potentially
24 deprive Connecticut retirees of at least five hundred fifty-seven dollars
25 per month in Social Security benefits that have been duly earned by such
26 retirees; and

27 WHEREAS, while the provisions of the Government Pension Offset
28 and the Windfall Elimination Provision were intended to curtail the
29 payment of windfall benefits to highly paid government employees, in
30 practice, such provisions have had devastating consequences for lower
31 wage employees who have worked for many years as public servants
32 including, but not limited to, teachers, police officers and firefighters;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, more than two million government employees and
35 retirees are affected by the Government Pension Offset or the Windfall
36 Elimination Provision, or both, and the repercussions are felt most
37 acutely in Connecticut and other states where a high proportion of state
38 or municipal employees participate in state or municipal retirement
39 systems that do not include Social Security benefits; and

40 WHEREAS, although the vast majority of Connecticut teachers
41 participate in the state's teacher retirement system and therefore are not
42 required to pay Social Security taxes and do not pay such taxes, many
43 Connecticut teachers, as well as other state or municipal employees,
44 have paid Social Security taxes through other employment and would
45 be otherwise entitled to Social Security benefits but for the Windfall
46 Elimination Provision or would be entitled to spousal Social Security

47 benefits were it not for the Government Pension Offset; and

48 WHEREAS, the provisions of the Government Pension Offset and
49 Windfall Elimination Provision cause veteran teachers in Connecticut to
50 prematurely retire and discourage qualified individuals from entering
51 the teaching profession at a time where Connecticut and the nation face
52 a shortage of qualified educators; and

53 WHEREAS, the Government Pension Offset and Windfall
54 Elimination Provision of the Social Security Act severely and unfairly
55 penalize recipients of public pensions.

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut General
57 Assembly calls upon the Congress of the United States to repeal the
58 Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision of
59 the Social Security Act; and

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the Senate and House
61 of Representatives cause copies of this resolution to be sent to the
62 presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of the
63 Connecticut congressional delegation.