

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
13 attorney general of Louisiana and the presiding officers of each state legislature and to the
14 officers of the United States Senate and House of Representatives and to each member of
15 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)]

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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).