



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 reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged  
7 indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected  
8 persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in  
9 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 earn 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 the GPO can be applied to  
15 a 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 lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP  
23 provisions compromise their quality of life; and

24          WHEREAS, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day  
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.

3           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
4 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the  
5 Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit  
6 reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by supporting S.521 of the 116th  
7 Congress, the Social Security Fairness Act.

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

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#### 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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HCR 9 Engrossed

2020 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

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 by supporting S.521 of the 116th Congress, the Social Security Fairness Act.