

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 unfairly reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an
5 averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for
6 affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant
7 in 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 earned 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 WEP, the
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, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions
21 compromise their quality of life; and

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

24 WHEREAS, individuals drastically affected by the GPO and WEP may have no
25 choice 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 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 WEP can only be enacted by congress; and

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana adopted House Concurrent Resolution
2 No. 11 of the 2022 Regular Session memorializing congress to support H.R. 82 of the 117th
3 Congress and other state legislators to do the same in order to reduce or eliminate the GPO
4 and WEP.

5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
6 urge and request the House Committee on Retirement and the Senate Committee on
7 Retirement to study and make recommendations regarding benefit options for future
8 employees of the state of Louisiana to avoid penalties associated with the Government
9 Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Program.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committees are requested to solicit testimony
11 from the attorney general of Louisiana, the state and statewide retirement systems, members
12 of Louisiana's congressional delegation, and others.

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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2023 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

Requests the legislative committees on retirement to study and make recommendations on benefit options for future employees of the state of La. to avoid social security penalties under the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Program.