

## ABOUT THE FEDERAL OFFSETS

In most cases, employees of the State of Louisiana who are members of LASERS are not required to pay Social Security tax. However, if you are entitled to a Social Security benefit, either your own from private sector employment or a spouse's or widow/widower's benefit, that benefit may be reduced because of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) or the Government Pension Offset (GPO). **Your LASERS benefit will NOT be reduced, but you should be prepared for a reduction in your Social Security benefits.**

## WHY ARE MY SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS REDUCED OR ELIMINATED?

Originally, the State of Louisiana was not allowed to participate in Social Security to provide coverage for its public employees. When Social Security was later open to public employees, Louisiana did not opt into coverage. Both the WEP and GPO are designed to offset the amount of Social Security benefits paid to those eligible to receive some other type of public pension, in this case, your LASERS retirement. The type of Social Security benefit a LASERS member is eligible to receive determines how Social Security reductions will be applied.

## SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT (HR 82)

The LASERS Board of Trustees considers the reduction or elimination of the WEP and GPO as a significant Board issue. **However, any change to these offsets must be made on the federal level.**

## WHAT'S THE LATEST UPDATE ON HR 82?

Legislation that would repeal programs that eliminate or reduce Social Security retirement benefits for some federal employees remains a major topic of discussion in Congress.

**HR 82**, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, is sponsored by Representative Garrett Graves (R-LA) and is co-sponsored by more than 300 members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill would eliminate both the WEP and the GPO. HR 82 details are available at [www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/82](https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/82).

LASERS continues to monitor and track federal and state legislation regarding changes to the WEP and GPO, and keep members informed as changes occur. **We encourage you to contact your congressmen directly.**

## WHERE CAN I WATCH THE FEDERAL HEARING HELD IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA?

The House Ways and Means Committee held a field hearing in Louisiana on November 20, 2023 on the impact of Social Security's WEP and GPO. **Watch the recording at** <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/event/social-security-subcommittee-field-hearing-on-social-securitys-disservice-to-public-servants-how-the-windfall-elimination-provision-and-government-pension-offset-mistreat-government-workers/>.

### SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION:

<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/gpo-wep.html>

### MORE INFO AND

### SOCIAL SECURITY OFFSETS VIDEO:

<https://lasersonline.org/social-security-offsets/>