

Repeal of WEP & GPO with Passage of Social Security Fairness Act



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On December 21, 2024, the U.S. Congress passed the Social Security Fairness Act, which repeals two federal laws – the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). President Biden signed this bill into law on January 5, 2025.

With the repeal, Public School Retirement System (PSRS) members who receive reduced Social Security benefits due to WEP or GPO would receive increased Social Security benefits retroactively, **starting with January 2024 payments**. When and how that will be done is to be determined by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

What is it?

WEP and GPO reduced Social Security benefits received by individuals who also receive a pension for work on which they did not pay Social Security taxes.

- WEP affects individuals who earn a pension from work not covered by Social Security (like most PSRS members) and also work at other jobs that are covered by Social Security long enough to qualify for Social Security benefits. The Social Security benefit is typically reduced by about 50%, but it cannot be reduced to zero.
- GPO affects individuals who earn a pension from work not covered by Social Security (like most PSRS members) and who also qualify for spousal Social Security benefits. The GPO applies a reduction equal to two-thirds of the PSRS benefit, which typically eliminates the entire spousal Social Security benefit.

What now?

Impacted individuals who previously filed for Social Security benefits **do not need to take any action** according to SSA. You only have to verify that SSA has your current mailing address and direct deposit information, which can be done at ssa.gov. If we receive different information as the new legislation unfolds, we will let you know.

Sources:

<https://www.psr-peers.org/About-Us/News/2024/12/23/congress-repeals-wep-and-gpo-with-passage-of-social-security-fairness-act>
<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html>
<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/congress/2024/12/senate-passes-social-security-bill-to-repeal-wep-and-gpo/>
<https://www.fedsmith.com/2025/01/05/legislation-repealing-the-wep-and-gpo-signed-into-law/>

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