On Sunday, January 5, President Biden signed H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act, into law. This legislation marks a significant step forward in enhancing the financial security of approximately 90,000 Louisiana public servants and thousands more across the nation.

H.R. 82 eliminates the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), long-standing provisions in Social Security that have substantially reduced benefits for retirees who also receive a pension from employment not covered by Social Security.

How Does This Affect You?

This new law increases Social Security benefits for certain types of workers, including some:

- Teachers and police officers
- Federal employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System
- People whose work had been covered by a foreign social security system; and
- People who contributed to both a private section defined contribution retirement plan (401k), and a public-sector pension plan due to career changes.

It's important to remember that your TRSL, ORP, or LASERS benefit was/is not reduced or impacted by federal offsets or the elimination of those federal offsets.

As a reminder, these changes are effective for benefits payable after December 2023 meaning benefits paid starting January 2024 will no longer reflect the WEP or GPO reductions. The LSUHSC Retirement team will keep you updated with any changes as they occur.

Introduced in 2023, the Social Security Fairness Act garnered strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. Its passage represents a significant victory for fairness and equity for those who dedicate their lives to public service.

Questions?

Contact the SSA directly using the contact information here on the SSA website. You can also visit the WEP/GPO update page on their site for the latest information.

Beginning Jan. 6, 2025, SSA started requiring appointments for visits to local Social Security offices. To find the phone number for your local office and make an appointment, please click here.