



The Social Security Fairness Act

On January 5, President Joe Biden signed H.R. 82, The Social Security Fairness Act which eliminates the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) into law. The bill was introduced by Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) and Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA), and the Senate companion bill was introduced by Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) in the 118th Congress.

The GPO and WEP provisions unfairly reduced Social Security benefits for public sector retirees who receive a public pension — or the spouse or survivor of a Social Security beneficiary — who worked in a job not covered by the Social Security program. Repeal of these provisions was a 20-year priority for the Alliance.

Once implemented, the Social Security Fairness Act will restore full Social Security benefits to more than 2.5 million retired federal, state, and local government employees who worked as teachers, police, firefighters, postal workers and general employees. Affected retirees will now be eligible to receive up to an additional \$600 per month in Social Security benefits, calculated retroactively to 2024.

Implementation of the Social Security Fairness Act

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is responsible for implementation of this law and calculating new benefit amounts for the retirees who were affected by the WEP or GPO. Because Congress did not allocate additional funds for this work, SSA has estimated that it could take up to a year before people affected by the WEP and GPO receive their benefits. The average monthly benefit increase is expected to be \$360.

People with public pensions or survivors whose Social Security benefits were affected by the WEP or GPO are encouraged to ensure that the SSA has their correct name and address on file. There is no need to reapply for Social Security benefits, according to the agency.

However, retirees who never filed for Social Security because of the WEP-GPO provisions, are being encouraged to submit an application online or in person.

More information is available on the Social Security Administration's website, ssa.gov