

POM-302. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to eliminate provisions of law which reduce social security benefits for those receiving benefits from government retirement systems; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor social security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned social security benefit for persons who also receive federal, state, or local retirement; and

Whereas, the intent of Congress in enacting the GPO and the WEP provisions was to address concerns that a public employee who had worked primarily in federal, state, and local government employment might receive a public pension in addition to the same social security benefit as a worker who had worked only in employment covered by social security throughout his career; and

Whereas, the purpose of Congress in enacting these reduction provisions was to provide a disincentive for public employees to receive two pensions; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving federal, state, or local government retirement benefits who would also be entitled to a social security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor social security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the social security benefit; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement benefits, in addition to working in covered employment and paying into the social security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned social security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce social security benefits for such persons by as much as one-half of the uncovered public retirement benefits earned; and

Whereas, because of these calculation characteristics, the GPO and WEP have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong. Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to review the GPO and WEP social security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating them. Be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. KENNEDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

Report to accompany S. 1858, A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such

Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-280).

By Mr. AKAKA, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2162. A bill to improve the treatment and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorders, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-281).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2828. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue coins commemorating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Glacier National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SMITH, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. BOND):

S. 2829. A bill to make technical corrections to section 1244 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which provides special immigrant status for certain Iraqis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. MCCONNELL) (by request):

S. 2830. A bill to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement; to the Committee on Finance pursuant to section 2103(c) of Public Law 107-210.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2831. A bill to reauthorize the Federal Trade Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. Res. 505. A resolution commending the University of Kansas men's basketball team for winning the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Basketball Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. Res. 506. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that funding provided by the United States to the Government of Iraq in the future for reconstruction and training for security forces be provided as a loan to the Government of Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DODD, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Con. Res. 74. A concurrent resolution honoring the Prime Minister of Ireland, Bertie Ahern, for his service to the people of Ireland and to the world and welcoming the Prime Minister to the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 400

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 400, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that dependent students who take a medically necessary leave of absence do not lose health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 594

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 594, a bill to limit the use, sale, and transfer of cluster munitions.

S. 626

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 626, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for arthritis research and public health, and for other purposes.

S. 630

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 630, a bill to amend part C of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a minimum payment rate by Medicare Advantage organizations for services furnished by a critical access hospital and a rural health clinic under the Medicare program.

S. 937

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 937, a bill to improve support and services for individuals with autism and their families.

S. 1223

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1223, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to support efforts by local or regional television or radio broadcasters to provide essential public information programming in the event of a major disaster, and for other purposes.

S. 1437

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1437, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.