

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10—COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MARCH 19, 2001

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to amend Social Security Act to modify certain reductions in social security benefits that are required for spouses and surviving spouses who are also receiving certain federal, state or local government pensions. (BDR R-1484)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to amend the Social Security Act to modify certain reductions in social security benefits that are required for spouses and surviving spouses who are also receiving certain federal, state or local government pensions.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 1977, Congress enacted the Government Pension Offset
2 (GPO) to treat government pensions and survivor annuities as if they were
3 social security benefits; and
4 WHEREAS, Congress amended the GPO in 1983 by enacting a provision
5 requiring that the social security benefits of a person receiving a federal,
6 state or local government pension from work not covered by social security
7 be offset or reduced by an amount that is equal to two-thirds of the
8 government pension; and
9 WHEREAS, The GPO can affect any retiree who receives a federal, state
10 or local government pension and social security benefits, but primarily
11 affects widows and widowers eligible for spousal benefits; and
12 WHEREAS, Since its inception, more than 305,000 retired federal, state
13 and local government employees have had their benefits fully or partially
14 reduced by the GPO; and
15 WHEREAS, Approximately 70 percent of those persons affected by the
16 GPO are women, of whom more than 89,000 are widows; and
17 WHEREAS, Statistics show that the average loss in retirement benefits
18 for those persons affected by the GPO is nearly \$350 per month, with
19 widows experiencing the highest average monthly loss of approximately
20 \$477; and



1 WHEREAS, Unintentionally, the GPO has harmed a disproportionate
2 number of women who are federal, state and local government retirees with
3 moderate and lower incomes by dropping many of them below the poverty
4 line in their retirement years; and

5 WHEREAS, During the 107th session of Congress, Representative
6 William Jefferson of Louisiana introduced H.R. 664, a bill that would
7 modify the GPO by allowing spouses and surviving spouses who are also
8 receiving certain federal, state or local government pensions to receive a
9 minimum of \$1,200 per month before the two-thirds offset could be
10 imposed; and

11 WHEREAS, This targeted reform is designed to help the most serious
12 victims of the GPO, those federal, state and local government retirees with
13 the lowest government pensions who are primarily women; now, therefore,
14 be it

15 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,
16 JOINTLY, That the members of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge
17 Congress to amend the Social Security Act to provide that the reductions in
18 social security benefits which are required for spouses and surviving
19 spouses who are also receiving certain federal, state or local government
20 pensions must be equal to the amount by which two-thirds of the total
21 amount of the combined monthly benefit and monthly pension exceeds
22 \$1,200; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the passage of H.R. 664 will restore fairness and
24 equity to the most vulnerable federal, state and local government retirees at
25 a relatively low cost of approximately \$2 billion over 5 years, thereby
26 entitling those persons who have worked diligently their entire lives to reap
27 the fruits of their labor after retirement; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit
29 a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the
30 presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
31 Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional
32 Delegation; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

