

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
June 19, 2018 to September 13, 2018

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
DECEMBER 13, 2018

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 5, 2018 to June 20, 2019

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2019

SELECTED MEMORIALS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

**JOINT RESOLUTION
MEMORIALIZING THE
UNITED STATES
CONGRESS TO SUPPORT
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IN
MAINE AFFECTED BY THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
SHUTDOWN AND TO TAKE
IMMEDIATE
CONGRESSIONAL ACTION**

H.P. 280

WE, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the First Regular Session, most respectfully present and petition the United States Congress as follows:

WHEREAS, the longest partial shutdown in the history of the United States government began on December 22, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the federal government shutdown is affecting approximately 800,000 federal employees; and

WHEREAS, in Maine the workers currently affected are employees of the Department of Homeland Security, which includes airport screening personnel and members of the United States Coast Guard, and employees of Acadia National Park; and

WHEREAS, those federal workers who have not been furloughed are obliged to work without pay; and

WHEREAS, the federal government shutdown is also having an effect on other industries in Maine, such as tourism, and small businesses that depend upon federal regulation and loan processing; and

WHEREAS, as the federal government shutdown continues, there is potential for many social and housing services in the State to be negatively affected; and

WHEREAS, it is important for the economic health of the State that the federal government shutdown cease as quickly as possible; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, your Memorialists, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to respectfully request that the United States Congress take immediate steps to reach a compromise and end the partial shutdown of the Federal Government and restore financial security to the lives of citizens; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of

Representatives and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

**Read and adopted by the House of Representatives
January 24, 2019 and the Senate January 24, 2019.**

**JOINT RESOLUTION
MEMORIALIZING THE
PRESIDENT AND
CONGRESS OF THE
UNITED STATES TO
SUPPORT THE REFORM OF
THE SOCIAL SECURITY
OFFSETS OF THE
GOVERNMENT PENSION
OFFSET AND THE
WINDFALL ELIMINATION
PROVISION**

H.P. 1204

WE, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the First Regular Session, most respectfully present and petition the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States, as follows:

WHEREAS, under current federal law, individuals who receive a Social Security benefit and a public retirement benefit derived from employment not covered under Social Security are subject to a reduction in the Social Security benefits; and

WHEREAS, these laws, contained in the federal Social Security Act, 42 United States Code, Chapter 7, Subchapter II, Federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Benefits, and known as the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision, greatly affect public employees, particularly women; and

WHEREAS, the Windfall Elimination Provision reduces by a formula the Social Security benefit of a person who is also receiving a pension from a public employer that does not participate in Social Security; and

WHEREAS, the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision are particularly burdensome on the finances of low-income and moderate-income public service workers, such as school teachers, clerical workers and school cafeteria employees, whose wages are low to start; and

WHEREAS, the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision both unfairly reduce benefits for those public employees and their spouses

SELECTED MEMORIALS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

whose careers cross the line between the private and public sectors; and

WHEREAS, since many lower-paying public service jobs are held by women, both the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision have a disproportionately adverse effect on women; and

WHEREAS, in some cases, additional support in the form of income, housing, heating and prescription drug and other safety net assistance from state and local governments is needed to make up for the reductions imposed at the federal level; and

WHEREAS, other participants in Social Security do not have their benefits reduced in this manner; and

WHEREAS, to participate or not to participate in Social Security in public sector employment is a decision of employers, even though both the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision directly punish employees and their spouses; and

WHEREAS, although the Government Pension Offset was enacted in 1977 and the Windfall Elimination Provision was enacted in 1983, many of the benefits in dispute were paid into Social Security prior to that time; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States work together to support reform proposals that include the following protections for low-income and moderate-income government retirees:

1. Protections permitting retention of a combined public pension and Social Security benefit with no applied reductions;
2. Protections permanently ensuring that level of benefit by indexing it to inflation; and
3. Protections ensuring that no current recipient's benefit is reduced by the reform legislation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; the President of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States; and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

**Read and adopted by the House of Representatives
May 7, 2019 and the Senate May 8, 2019.**
