



SOCIAL SECURITY

As a SERS retiree, if you are also eligible for a Social Security benefit, you may be affected by federal law regulating Social Security benefits. As a result, your Social Security benefit may be reduced by either the Government Pension Offset (GPO) or the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

Neither the GPO nor the WEP will reduce your SERS pension. They can affect only your Social Security benefit. The following is provided as general information.

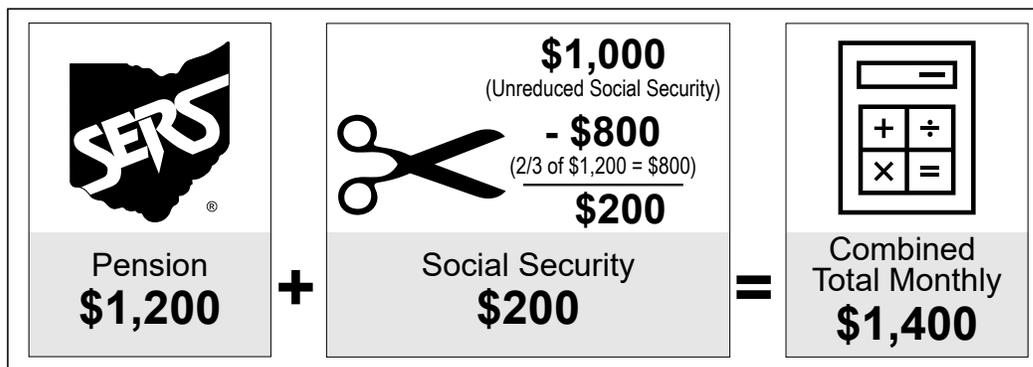
The Government Pension Offset (GPO)

Will the GPO Affect You?

- The GPO applies to SERS retirees who receive, or will receive, a Social Security benefit based on their spouse's Social Security account.
- This includes surviving spouses qualifying on an ex-spouse's account.
- The GPO does NOT affect Medicare coverage.

How Does the GPO Work?

- The amount of your Social Security spousal benefit is reduced by two-thirds of the amount of your SERS pension. Example:



- Depending on your gross SERS pension and/or Social Security benefit amount, the GPO could eliminate your Social Security spousal benefit entirely.

When you receive cost-of-living adjustments or other increases in your SERS pension, you must report these to the SSA. These increases will result in a new GPO calculation and further reduction in your Social Security benefit.

For more information regarding the GPO, please visit Social Security's website at: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/gpo-calc.html>.

The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)

Will the WEP Affect You?

- The WEP affects SERS retirees who receive, or will receive, a Social Security benefit based on their own Social Security employment record.
- If you had a private sector job and contributed to Social Security for that job, the WEP may reduce any Social Security benefit you receive based on the private sector job.
- If you have 30 or more qualified years of earnings under Social Security, the WEP will not affect your Social Security benefit.
- Again, the WEP will NOT reduce your SERS pension.

How Does the WEP Work?

- The WEP modifies the formula that the SSA uses in calculating your Social Security benefit depending on the number of years you paid into Social Security.
- Please note: You should contact the SSA to determine the effect of the WEP on your Social Security benefit.
- You can estimate your Social Security benefit reduction using the WEP Online Calculator available at <https://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/anyPiaWepjs04.html>
- The WEP formula will NOT eliminate your Social Security benefit entirely.

For more information regarding the WEP, please visit Social Security's website at: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/wep.html>.

For more detailed information on the GPO and WEP, and how they may affect your specific Social Security benefit, please contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) by contacting your local office, visiting the SSA website at www.ssa.gov, or by telephone at 800-772-1213.