

NARFE's Legislative Priorities - 110th U. S. Legislative Session (2007 - 2008)

There are two major legislative issues which have been identified as important to NARFE members in Texas and nationally. Establishing an issue as "priority" is based on the economic impact that such a bill, if passed, would have on our membership. Below you will find listed both of NARFE's priority issues, Premium Conversion and GPO/WEP Repeal, and two other bills supported by NARFE, revision (reduction) of GPO and WEP penalties. There are two bills which revise or modify the WEP penalty, but are not supported by NARFE. You will note the listing includes bill number, senior author, his/her party and state and the number of cosponsors (in parenthesis) as of this date.

Should you find errors in the information presented below or have particular interest in other bills having an impact on NARFE members or seniors' issues, please let me know.

Priority Issues

Pre-tax FEHBP Premiums (Premium Conversion)

H. R. 1110 Rep. Tom Davis R-VA (341)

S. 773 Sen. John Warner R-VA (60)

Allows civilian and military retirees to pay FEHBP premiums with pre-tax dollars. Would result in \$500-\$950 annual savings for most federal annuitants (Average annual savings = \$820 per retiree).

GPO/WEP Repeal

Repeal

H. R. 82 Rep. Howard Berman D-CA (341)

S. 206 Sen. Dianne Feinstein D-CA (38)

Repeal: eliminates both Social Security penalties, GPO & WEP

NARFE Supported Issues

WEP - Windfall Elimination Provision

Revision/Modification

H.R. 726 Rep. Barney Frank D-MA (20)

Over 972,000+ CSRS Annuitants/Social Security beneficiaries currently impacted (as of December 2007); 60,000 more are added annually.

H.R. 2772 Rep. Kevin Brady R-TX (22)^{1/}

S. 1647 Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison R-TX (1)^{1/}

GPO - Government Pension Offset

Revision/Modification

H. R. 2988 Rep. Al R. Wynn D-MD (1)

S. 1254 Sen. Barbara Mikulski D-MD (9)

465,000+ CSRS Annuitants/Social Security beneficiaries currently impacted (as of June 2007); 15,000 more added annually.

^{1/} Companion bills in House and Senate. Not "supported" by NARFE. These bills do not benefit current retirees. See p. 14, Dec. 2007 issue NARFE magazine.

**Toll-free number 1-866-220-0044 for contacting your representative and/or senators re:
Premium Conversion, GPO/WEP Repeal, et al.**

12/31/08 date information updated

JGT