

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR ELTON

Introduced: 1/12/04

Referred: State Affairs, Health, Education and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to supporting the repeal of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall**
2 **Elimination Provisions from the Social Security Act.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** the retirement systems established by the state for public employees are
5 independent of the federal social security system; and

6 **WHEREAS** Alaska's teachers and most public employees do not participate in the
7 federal social security system while performing public service; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Social Security Act includes two offsets, the Government Pension
9 Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision, that reduce the social security benefits payable
10 to persons earned in the private sector or from other public retirement systems under certain
11 conditions; and

12 **WHEREAS** educators and many other public employees in Alaska who earn a
13 pension from working for a government agency incur substantial reductions in their earned
14 social security benefits as surviving spouses through their spouses' social security eligibility
15 under the Government Pension Offset or from employment for which they paid into social
16 security from the Windfall Elimination Provision; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Social Security Act offsets discourage individuals with private sector
2 or military service from seeking teaching and other public employment positions in Alaska;
3 and

4 **WHEREAS** the recruitment of teachers from other states who have earned social
5 security benefits from other jobs is also undermined by these federal offsets; and

6 **WHEREAS** teachers have left Alaska upon learning about these offsets in order to
7 avoid losing social security benefits; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Alaska economy is also harmed by these social security offsets due to
9 millions of dollars in lost benefits; and

10 **WHEREAS** legislation to remedy the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall
11 Elimination Provision has been introduced in the 108th United States Congress by a bipartisan
12 group of legislators and cosponsored by a large number of other legislators;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Alaska
14 Congressional delegation to sign on as cosponsors to current federal legislation and support
15 the repeal of the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision.

16 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
17 Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
18 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to all other members of
19 the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives serving in the 108th United States
20 Congress.