

**THIRTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 2003**

**SENATE BILL  
NO. 13-147, SD1**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

To provide for stricter penalties for violations of the CNMI Ethics Code, and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE THIRTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           Section 1. Findings and Purpose.    The Legislature finds that as a result of the  
2 recent events involving certain public officials' unethical conduct in office, there exists a  
3 demand to provide stricter penalties for violations of the CNMI Ethics Code and  
4 Commonwealth laws. The current penalty for Ethics Code violations is Five Hundred  
5 Dollars. Such amount is inadequate. Stiffer penalties are needed to dissuade present and  
6 future violations of the Ethics Code. The purpose of this measure is to increase the penalties  
7 for violating the CNMI Ethics Code and include public officials as persons who may be  
8 barred from retaining their offices after conviction of a criminal offense. By doing so, the  
9 Legislature intends to deter unethical conduct by all public officials.

10           Section 2.    Amendments.

11                   (a)    Title 1 CMC section 8572 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12                           § 8572.        Judicial Penalties.

13                                   (a)    Any person found by a court to be guilty of knowingly  
14 violating any of the provisions of this part or of furnishing false,  
15 misleading or incomplete information to the Public Auditor with the  
16 intent to mislead, upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine  
17 of no ~~more~~ less than \$~~500~~ \$5,000 for any one offense.

