

**TITLE 1: GOVERNMENT**  
**DIVISION 8: PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

**§ 8228. Housing Allowance Policy for Recruitment Outside of the CNMI.**

(a) Regulations in effect on August 1, 2005 on housing allowance or housing benefit for employees who are recruited from outside the Commonwealth shall remain in effect for a period of not more than two years after the effective date of this act, and such regulations may not be amended.

(b) Any government employee who receives a housing allowance or housing benefit and voluntarily terminates his or her contract before the expiration of the contract shall forfeit the benefit of repatriation to the point of hire or any other location specified in the employment contract and be required to pay back to the Commonwealth Government fifty percent of the expenses to recruit the employee and fifty percent of the total housing allowance or housing benefit received by the employee.

(c) All new or renewal contracts of employment entered into pursuant to 3 CMC § 4434(I), as amended, are subject to this section.

**Source:** PL 14-91, § 3, modified.

**Commission Comment:** The Commission omitted figures that were a repetition of words in subsection (b) above pursuant to the authority granted by 1 CMC § 3806(e). PL 14-91 was enacted on September 30, 2005 and contained findings and purpose, severability, and savings clause provisions, in addition to an amendment to 3 CMC § 4434(I)(1). The findings and purpose stated:

Section 1. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature finds that Public Law 12-34 extended the sunset provision imposed by Public Law 10-4 in which certain government departments and agencies may hire non-resident workers to fill professional and technical vacant positions. The Legislature, however, finds that there is a need to further extend the sunset provision for another two years for the Department of Health because there continues to be a shortage of locally available physicians, midwives, nurses, dentists, technicians, and other healthcare professionals.

The purpose of this legislation is to extend the sunset provision of hiring non-resident workers at the Department of Public Health, as well as to make requested provisions for the Department of Public Works and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.