

TITLE 1: GOVERNMENT
DIVISION 8: PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

§ 8245. Compensation of Certain Appointed Officials.

The following appointed positions within the Commonwealth government shall be paid base annual salaries as follows:

(a) Department director/activity head:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Annual Salary (Not to Exceed)</i>
Secretary, Community and Cultural Affairs	\$54,000
Secretary, Commerce	\$54,000
Commissioner, Public Safety	\$54,000
Secretary, Finance	\$70,000
Secretary, Public Works	\$54,000
Secretary, Public Health Services	\$60,000, or \$80,000 if the Secretary holds an M.D. or a Ph.D.
Director, Natural Resources	\$48,000
Director, Emergency Management Office	\$40,800
Director, Coastal Resources Management	\$48,000
Attorney General	\$70,000
Public Defender	\$56,000
Public Auditor	\$54,000

(b) The annual compensation for department deputy directors shall be not more than \$42,000.

(c) The annual compensation for resident department heads shall not be more than \$36,000.

(d) The annual compensation for unclassified division chiefs and special assistants of the principal executive department shall not be more than \$40,800 except that the director for the Division of Tax and Revenue shall not be more than \$50,000.

(e) The annual compensation for private secretaries to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall be not more than \$30,000.

(f) Governor's special assistants:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Annual Salary (Not to Exceed)</i>
Disaster Control Officer	\$36,000
Hawaii/Guam Liaison Officers	\$43,200
Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review	\$45,000
Public Information and Protocol Officer	\$43,200
Special Assistant for Management and Budget	\$54,000
Special Assistant for Administration	\$54,000
Governor's Legal Counsel	\$60,000

(g) Constitutional offices:

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<i>Title</i>	<i>Annual Salary (Not to Exceed)</i>
Special Assistant for Women's Affairs	\$43,200
Resident Executive for Indigenous Affairs	\$43,200
Executive Assistant for Carolinian Affairs	\$48,000

(h) Directors of any other executive department established after June 19, 1991, shall receive an annual salary not greater than \$48,000.

(i) Any Commonwealth government employee shall take a leave of absence from his Commonwealth government position immediately upon certification of his candidacy by the Board of Elections until such time that he is no longer a candidate for public office.

(j) The annual salary for the Coastal Resources Administrator and the Energy Administrator shall not exceed \$43,200; however, no additional funds shall be appropriated out of the General Fund for such salary adjustment.

Source: [PL 7-31](#), § 4 (repealing [PL 6-23](#), § 2, which had previously repealed [PL 4-32](#), § 6); amended by [PL 9-25](#), § 513; (d) amended by [PL 17-52](#) § 2 (Sept. 11, 2011); (a) amended by [PL 18-72](#) § 2 (Jan. 23, 2015).

Commission Comment: [PL 18-72](#) (effective Jan. 23, 2015) contained, in addition to savings and severability clauses, the following Findings and Purpose section:

Section 1. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature finds that certain department heads' salaries have been stagnant for many years, despite the increasing responsibilities and difficulties of their positions. The Secretary of Commerce is responsible for growing the CNMI economy and continuously looking for new investors, especially during these economically challenging times. The Secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs manages the biggest executive branch department with important functions including but not limited to the NAP program, youth programs, manamko programs, and social programs. Yet these secretaries are paid a salary much lower than other cabinet members. Therefore, it is intent of this measure to increase their salaries to the same level as other cabinet members.

The table contained in § 2 of [PL 18-72](#) only listed the Secretary of Community and Cultural Affairs through the Secretary of Public Works. Because the act did not expressly repeal the salary definitions for the other officials listed in subsection (a), the Commission did not remove them from this section.