THIRD CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1983

CONGRESSIONAL BILL NO. 3-48

AN ACT

To establish a postal crimes act, and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA:

1	CHAPTER 1	

2 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 3 Section 101. <u>Title</u>. This act shall be known and cited as the
- 4 "Postal Crimes Act."
- 5 Section 102. <u>Jurisdiction</u>. The offenses set out in this act are
- 6 offenses against the National Government of the Federated States of
- 7 Micronesia and come within the exclusive and original jurisdiction of
- 8 the Trial Division of the Supreme Court of the Federated States of
- 9 Micronesia.
- 10 Section 103. Enforcement National Criminal Code. In enforcing
- 11 and carrying out the provisions of this act, chapters 1, 2, 3, and 10
- 12 of the National Criminal Code shall apply.
- Section 104. Foreign mail as Federated States of Micronesia mail.
- 14 All foreign mail while being transported across the territory of the
- 15 Federated States of Micronesia under authority of law is mail of the
- 16 Federated States of Micronesia, and any offense in respect thereto shall
- 17 be punishable as though it were Federated States of Micronesia mail.
- 18 CHAPTER 2
- 19 POSTAL CRIMES
- 20 Section 201. Carriage of mail generally. Whoever carries mail,
- 21 collects, receives, or carries any letter or packet, contrary to law,
- 22 shall be fined not more than \$100, or imprisoned not more than 30

- 1 days, or both.
- 2 Section 202. Carriage of matter out of mail over post routes.
- 3 Whoever, having charge or control of any conveyance which regularly
- 4 performs trips on any post route over which the mail is regularly
- 5 carried, carries any letters or packets, except such as relate to some
- 6 part of the cargo of such conveyance, or to the current business of the
- 7 carrier, or to some article carried at the same time by the same conveyance,
- 8 shall be fined not more than \$100.
- 9 Section 203. Private express for letters and packets prohibited.
- 10 (1) Whoever establishes any private express for the con-
- 11 veyance of letters or packets or in any manner causes or provides for
- 12 the conveyance of the same by regular trips or at stated periods on any
- 13 post route over which the mail is regularly carried shall be fined not
- 14 more than \$500, or imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both. This
- 15 section shall not prohibit any person from receiving and delivering to
- 16 the nearest post office or other authorized depository for mail matter
- 17 properly stamped.
- 18 (2) Whoever transmits by private express, or delivers to
- 19 any agent thereof, or deposits at any appointed place, for the purpose
- 20 of being so transmitted, any letter or packet shall be fined not more
- 21 than \$100.
- 22 (3) This section shall not prohibit the conveyance or
- 23 transmission of letters or packets by private hands without compensation
- 24 or by special messenger employed for the particular occasion only.
- 25 Section 204. Transportation of persons acting as private express.

- 1 Whoever, having charge or control of any conveyance, knowingly
- 2 conveys or permits the conveyance of any person acting or employed
- 3 as a private express for the conveyance of letters or packets, and
- 4 actually in possession of the same for the purpose of conveying them
- 5 contrary to law shall be fined not more than \$200.
- 6 Section 205. Post office conducted without authority. Whoever,
- 7 without authority from the Postal Service, sets up or establishes any
- 8 office or place of business bearing the sign, name, or title of post
- 9 office shall be fined not more than \$500.
- 10 Section 206. Prompt delivery of mail. Whoever, having charge or
- 11 control of delivering mail to the postmaster or post office, fails to
- 12 so deliver that mail within 3 hours after its arrival, if during
- 13 business hours, and if after business hours, within 2 hours after the
- 14 next opening of business, all letters and packages within his power or
- 15 control, addressed to or destined for the postmaster or post office,
- 16 shall be fined not more than \$200.
- 17 Section 207. Desertion of mails. Whoever, having taken charge
- 18 of any mail, voluntarily quits or deserts the same before he has
- 19 delivered it to the post office or to a Postal Service employee or
- 20 official authorized to receive the same shall be fined not more than
- 21 \$500, or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.
- 22 Section 208. Obstruction of mails generally. Whoever knowingly
- 23 and willfully obstructs or retards the passage of the mail or any
- 24 carrier or conveyance carrying the mail shall be fined not more than
- 25 \$200, or imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both.

- Section 209. Obstruction of correspondence. Whoever takes any
- 2 article of mail out of any post office or any authorized depository
- 3 for mail matter, or from any mail carrier, or which has been in any
- 4 post office or authorized depository or in the custody of any mail
- 5 carrier, before it has been delivered to the person to whom it was
- 6 directed, with design to obstruct the correspondence or to pry into
- 7 the business or secrets of another, or opens, secrets, embezzles, or
- 8 destroys the same shall be fined not more than \$2,000, or imprisoned
- 9 not more than 3 years, or both.
- 10 Section 210. Delay or destruction of mail. Whoever, being a
- 11 Postal Service officer or employee, unlawfully secrets, destroys,
- 12 detains, delays, or opens any article of mail entrusted to him or
- 13 which shall come into his possession, and which was intended to be
- 14 conveyed by mail, shall be fined not more than \$500, or imprisoned
- 15 not more than 3 years, or both.
- 16 Section 211. Keys or locks stolen or reproduced.
- 17 (1) Whoever steals, embezzles, or obtains by false pretense
- 18 any key suited to any lock adopted by the Postal Service and in use
- 19 on any of the mails or bags thereof, or any key to any authorized
- 20 receptacle for the deposit or delivery of mail matter; or
- 21 (2) Whoever knowingly and unlawfully makes, forges, or
- 22 counterfeits any such key or possesses any such mail lock or key with
- 23 the intent unlawfully or improperly to use, sell, or otherwise dispose
- 24 of the same, or to cause the same to be unlawfully or improperly used,
- 25 sold, or otherwise disposed of; or

(3) Whoever, being engaged as a contractor or otherwise 1 2 in the manufacture of any such mail lock or key, delivers any lock or part thereof, or key, used or designed for use by the Postal 3 Service, to any person not duly authorized by the Postal Service to receive the same, unless the person receiving it is the contractor or his agent for furnishing the same or engaged in the manufacture 7 thereof as authorized by the contract shall be fined not more than \$500, or imprisoned not more than 8 5 years, or both. 10 Section 212. Destruction of letter boxes or mail. Whoever 11 willfully or maliciously injures, tears down, or destroys any letter 12 box or other receptacle intended or used for the receipt or delivery 13 of mail, or breaks open the same or willfully or maliciously injures, 14 defaces, or destroys any mail deposited therein shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not more than 3 years, or both. 15 16 Section 213. Damage to mail bags. Whoever tears, cuts, or 17 otherwise damages any mail bag, pouch, or other thing used or 18 designed for use in the conveyance of the mail with intent to rob 19 or steal any such mail or to render the same insecure shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not more than 3 years, or both. 20 21 Section 214. Theft of property used by Postal Service. Whoever 22 steals or embezzles any property used by the Postal Service or appropriates any such property to his own or any other than its proper 23

use, or conveys away such property to the hindrance or detriment of

the public service, shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned

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- 1 not more than 3 years, or both; but if the value of such property
- 2 does not exceed \$100, he shall be fined not more than \$500, or
- 3 imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.
- 4 Section 215. Theft of mail matter generally. Whoever steals,
- 5 destroys, or otherwise unlawfully takes any article of mail from a
- 6 post office, a Postal Service officer, or any authorized mail
- 7 receptacle or locale shall be fined not more than \$2,000, or
- 8 imprisoned not more than 3 years, or both.
- 9 Section 216. Receipt of stolen mail matter generally. Whoever
- 10 buys, receives, conceals, or unlawfully possesses any article of
- 11 mail which has been stolen or otherwise unlawfully taken, knowing the
- 12 same to have been stolen or otherwise unlawfully taken, shall be fined
- 13 not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not more than 3 years, or both.
- 14 Section 217. Theft of mail matter by officer or employee.
- 15 Whoever, being a Postal Service officer or employee, embezzles any
- 16 article of mail entrusted to him or which comes into his possession
- 17 intended to be conveyed by mail, or steals or removes any of the
- 18 contents of a parcel intended to be conveyed by mail, shall be fined
- 19 not more than \$2,000, or imprisoned not more than 3 years, or both.
- 20 Section 218. Misappropriation of postal funds. Whoever, being
- 21 a Postal Service officer or employee, loans, uses, pledges, or
- 22 converts to his own use, except as authorized by law, any money or
- 23 property coming under his control in the execution or under control of
- 24 his office, employment, or service is guilty of embezzlement and shall
- 25 be fined not more than \$5,000, or in a sum equal to the amount or value

- 1 of the money or property embezzled, or imprisoned not more than 5
- 2 years, or both; but if the amount or value thereof does not exceed
- 3 \$100, he shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not
- 4 more than 1 year, or both.
- 5 Section 219. Falsification of postal returns to increase
- 6 compensation. Whoever, being a Postal Service officer or employee,
- 7 makes a false return, statement, or account to any officer of the
- 8 Federated States of Micronesia, or makes a false entry in any record
- 9 book or account required by law to be kept in respect to the
- 10 business or operations of any post office for the purpose of fraud-
- 11 ulently increasing his compensation or the compensation of any
- 12 officer or employee of the Postal Service shall be fined not more
- 13 than \$500, or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.
- 14 Section 220. Issuance of money orders without payment. Who-
- 15 ever, being an officer or employee of the Postal Service, issues a
- 16 money order without having previously received the money therefor
- 17 shall be fined not more than \$500.
- 18 Section 221. Firearms as nonmailables.
- 19 (1) Firearms are nonmailable and shall not be deposited
- 20 in or carried by the mails or delivered by any officer or employee
- 21 of the Postal Service; PROVIDED that firearms may be conveyed in the
- 22 mails, under such regulations as the Postal Service may prescribe,
- 23 to State or National law enforcement officers.
- 24 (2) For purposes of this section, "firearm" means any
- 25 device, by whatever name known, which is designed or may be converted

1 to expel or hurl a projectile or projectiles by the action of an ex-

- plosion, a release, or an expansion of gas, including, but not limited
- to, guns except a device designed or redesigned for use solely as a
- signaling, line throwing, spearfishing, or industrial device.
- (3) Whoever knowingly deposits for mailing or delivery,
- or knowingly causes to be delivered by mail, any firearm declared
- nonmailable by this section shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or
- imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both.
- 9 Section 222. Injurious articles as nonmailable.
- (1) All kinds of poison, and all articles and compositions 10
- 11 containing poison, and all poisonous animals, insects, reptiles, and
- all explosives, inflammable materials, and mechanical, chemical, or
- other devices or compositions which may ignite or explode, and all 13
- disease germs or scabs, and all other natural or artificial articles, 14
- compositions, or material which may kill or injure another, or injure 15
- the mails or other property, are nonmailable matter and shall not be 16
- conveyed in the mails or delivered from any post office or station 17
- thereof, nor by any officer or employee of the Postal Service. 18
- (2) The Postal Service may permit the transmission in the 19
- 20 mails, under such rules and regulations as it shall prescribe as to
- preparation and packing, of any such articles which are not outwardly
- or of their own force dangerous or injurious to life, health, or
- 23 property.
- (3) The transmission in the mails of poisonous drugs and 24
- medicines may be limited by the Postal Service to shipments of such

1 articles from the manufacturer thereof or dealer therein to licensed

- 2 physicians, surgeons, dentists, pharmacists, and veterinarians under
- 3 such rules and regulations as it shall prescribe.
- 4 (4) All spirituous, vinous, malted, fermented, or other
- 5 intoxicating liquors of any kind are nonmailable and shall not be
- 6 deposited in or carried through the mails.
- 7 (5) All knives having a blade which opens automatically
- 8 (a) By hand pressure applied to a button or other
- 9 device in the handle of the knife, or
- 10 (b) By operation of inertia, gravity, or both,
- are nonmailable and shall not be deposited in or carried by the
- 12 mails or delivered by any officer or employee of the Postal Service.
- 13 (6) Whoever knowingly deposits for mailing or delivery, or
- 14 knowingly causes to be delivered by mail, according to the direction
- 15 thereon, or at any place at which it is directed to be delivered by
- 16 the person to whom it is addressed, anything declared nonmailable by
- 17 this section, unless in accordance with the rules and regulations
- 18 authorized to be prescribed by the Postmaster General, shall be fined
- 19 not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.
- 20 (7) Whoever knowingly deposits for mailing or delivery, or
- 21 knowingly causes to be delivered by mail, according to the direction
- 22 thereon, or at any place to which it is directed to be delivered by
- 23 the person to whom it is addressed, anything declared nonmailable
- 24 by this section, whether or not transmitted in accordance with the
- 25 rules and regulations authorized to be prescribed by the Postmaster

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- $1\,$ General, with intent to kill or injure another, or injure the mails
- 2 or other property, shall be fined not more than \$10,000, or imprisoned
- 3 not more than 20 years, or both.
- 4 (8) Whoever is convicted of any crime prohibited by this
- 5 section, which has resulted in the death of any person, shall be subject
- 6 also to imprisonment for life, if the Court shall in its discretion so
- 7 direct.
- 8 Section 223. Canceled stamps and envelopes.
- 9 (1) Whoever uses or attempts to use in payment of postage
- 10 any canceled postage stamp; or
- 11 (2) Whoever removes, attempts to remove, or assists in
- 12 removing the canceling or defacing marks from any postage stamp or
- 13 the superscription from any stamped envelope, package, or postal card
- 14 that has once been used in payment of postage with the intent to use
- 15 the same for a like purpose; or
- 16 (3) Whoever sells or offers to sell the same; or
- 17 (4) Whoever knowingly possesses any such postage stamp,
- 18 stamped envelope, package, or postal card with intent to use the
- 19 same; or
- 20 (5) Whoever knowingly sells or offers to sell any such
- 21 postage stamp, stamped envelope, package, or postal card; or
- 22 (6) Whoever uses or attempts to use the same in payment
- 23 of postage; or
- 24 (7) Whoever unlawfully and willfully removes from any
- 25 mail matter any stamp attached thereto in payment of postage; or

(8) Whoever knowingly uses in payment of postage any 1 2 postage stamp, postal card, postal package, or stamped envelope, issued in pursuance of law, which has already been used for a like purpose shall be fined not more than \$500, or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both; but if he is a person employed in the Postal Service, he shall be fined not more than \$500, or imprisoned not more than 3 years, or both. Section 224. Sale or pledge of stamps. Whoever, being a 9 Postal Service officer or employee, knowingly and willfully: (1) Uses or disposes of postage stamps, stamped envelopes, 11 or postal cards entrusted to his care or custody in the payment of 12 debts or in the purchase of merchandise or other salable articles, 13 or sells or disposes of them except for cash; or 14 (2) Sells or disposes of postage stamps or postal cards 15 for any larger or less sum than the values indicated on their faces; or 16 (3) Sells or disposes of stamped envelopes for a larger 17 or less sum than is charged therefor by the Postal Service for like 18 quantities; or 19 (4) Sells or disposes of postage stamps, stamped 20 envelopes, or postal cards at any point or place outside of the 21 delivery of the office where such officer or employee is employed; or 22

any post office for the purpose of increasing the emoluments or

compensation of any Postal Service officer or employee; or

(5) Inflates or induces the inflation of the receipts of

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- 1 (6) Sells or disposes of postage stamps, stamped envelopes,
- 2 or postal cards otherwise than as provided by law or regulation
- 3 shall be fined not more than \$500, or imprisoned not more than
- 4 1 year, or both.
- 5 Section 225. False evidence to secure second-class rate.
- 6 Whoever knowingly submits to any officer or employee of the Postal
- 7 Service any false evidence relative to any publication for the
- 8 purpose of securing the admission thereof at the second-class rate
- 9 for transportation in the mails shall be fined not more than \$500.
- 10 Section 226. Avoidance of postage by using lower class matter.
- 11 (1) Matter of the second, third, or fourth class contain-
- 12 ing any writing or printing in addition to the original matter, other
- 13 than as authorized by law, shall not be admitted to the mails, nor
- 14 delivered, except upon payment of postage for matter of the first
- 15 class. Unless by direction of a duly authorized officer of the
- 16 Postal Service such postage shall be remitted.
- 17 (2) Whoever knowingly conceals or encloses any matter of
- 18 a higher class in that of a lower class and deposits the same for
- 19 conveyance by mail at a lower rate than would be charged for such
- 20 higher class matter shall be fined not more than \$100.
- 21 Section 227. Postage unpaid on deposited mail matter. Whoever
- 22 knowingly and willfully deposits any mailable matter on which no
- 23 postage has been paid in any receptacle established, approved, or
- 24 accepted by the Postal Service for the receipt or delivery of mail
- 25 matter with intent to avoid payment of lawful postage thereon shall

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1	for each such offense be fined not more than \$300.		
2	Section 228. Postage collected unlawfully. Whoever, being a		
3	Postal Service officer or employee authorized to receive the		
4	postage of mail matter, fraudulently demands or receives any rate		
5	of postage or gratuity or reward other than is provided by law for		
6	the postage of such mail matter shall be fined not more than \$100,		
7	or imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both.		
8	CHAPTER 3		
9	EFFECTIVE DATE		
10	Section 301. Effective date. This act shall become law upon		
11	approval by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon		
12	its becoming law without such approval.		
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16	Tosiwa Nakayama		
17	President Federated States of Micronesia		
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