WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §6C-1-6

§6C-1-6. Civil penalty; termination from public service.

- (a) A person who, as an employer or under color of an employer's authority, violates this article is personally liable for a civil fine of not more than \$5,000. A civil fine which is collected under this section shall be paid to the State Treasurer for deposit into the General Fund.
- (b) In addition to subsection (a) of this section, and notwithstanding any provision in this code to the contrary, if the court specifically finds that the person, while in the employment of a public body, committed a violation of section three of this article with the intent to discourage the disclosure of information, such finding: (1) shall be deemed a finding of official misconduct and malfeasance in office, and may be relied upon as admissible evidence in any subsequent proceeding or petition to remove the person from public office; and (2) may be relied upon by the public body as a basis to discipline the person, including, but not limited to, termination from employment: Provided, That nothing shall be construed as requiring a civil action, civil penalty or a court finding under this section as a condition or prerequisite for a public body to take disciplinary action against the person.