



59       A. Whenever the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe, either upon complaint or otherwise,  
60       that any covered entity has engaged in, is engaging in, or is about to engage in any violation of this chapter,  
61       the Attorney General is empowered to issue a civil investigative demand. The provisions of § 59.1-9.10 shall  
62       apply mutatis mutandis to civil investigative demands issued under this section; however, any guidance  
63       issued by the Attorney General pursuant to this chapter shall be nonbinding. Nothing in this section shall  
64       require the Attorney General to conduct routine audits or monitoring for violations of this chapter.

65       B. In any action brought under this section, if a court finds that a covered entity has willfully engaged in  
66       an act or practice in violation of this chapter, the Attorney General may seek an injunction to restrain any  
67       violations of this chapter and recover, upon petition to the court, a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000 for  
68       an initial violation and \$50,000 for each subsequent violation within a three-year period. For purposes of  
69       this section, *prima facie* evidence of a willful violation may be shown when the Attorney General notifies the  
70       alleged violator by certified mail that an act or practice is a violation of this chapter and the alleged violator,  
71       after receipt of the notice, continues to engage in the act or practice.

72       C. The Attorney General recovering a civil penalty under this chapter may recover costs and reasonable  
73       expenses incurred by it in investigating and preparing the case and attorney fees.