

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 47.1-15.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to notaries; prohibition on certain*  
 3 *advertising; investigation by Attorney General.*

4 [H 1262]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That § 47.1-15.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 **§ 47.1-15.1. Additional prohibition on advertising; penalties.**

9 A. A notary public shall not offer or provide legal advice on immigration or other legal matters, or  
 10 represent any person in immigration proceedings, unless such notary public is authorized or licensed to  
 11 practice law in the Commonwealth or is accredited pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 292.2 to practice immigration law  
 12 or represent persons in immigration proceedings.

13 B. A notary public shall not assume, use, or advertise the title of "notario," "notario publico," or  
 14 "licenciado," or a term in a language other than English that indicates in such language that the notary is  
 15 authorized to provide legal advice or practice law, unless such notary public is authorized or licensed to  
 16 practice law in Virginia.

17 C. *Whenever the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe that any person has engaged in, is*  
 18 *engaging in, or is about to engage in any violation of this section, the Attorney General may issue a civil*  
 19 *investigative demand. The provisions of § 59.1-9.10 shall apply mutatis mutandis to a civil investigative*  
 20 *demand issued pursuant to this section.*

21 D. Any person who violates the provisions of subsection B is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$500  
 22 \$2,500 for a first violation and a civil penalty not to exceed ~~\$1,000~~ \$5,000 for a second or subsequent  
 23 violation. All penalties arising under this section shall be recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney  
 24 General in the name of the Commonwealth and the proceeds shall be deposited into the Legal Aid Services  
 25 Fund established in § 17.1-278. *In such civil action, the Attorney General may seek to enjoin any violation*  
 26 *and may recover restitution, reasonable expenses incurred in investigating and preparing the case, and*  
 27 *reasonable attorney fees.*

28 ~~D.~~ E. Nothing in this section shall preempt or preclude additional civil, administrative, or criminal  
 29 penalties authorized by law.

ENROLLED

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