1   **SENATE BILL NO. 73**
2   Offered January 13, 2016
3   Prefiled December 21, 2015
4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 54.1-3916 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal § 54.1-3915.1 of the*
5   *Code of Virginia, relating to lawyers; client accounts.*
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          Patron—Wexton
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8   Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice
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10   **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**
11 **1. That § 54.1-3916 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**
12   **§ 54.1-3916. Legal aid societies.**
13   A. The Virginia State Bar through its governing body is authorized to promulgate rules and
14 regulations governing the function and operation of legal aid societies to further the objective of
15 providing legal assistance to persons requiring such assistance but unable to pay for it. To the extent
16 that interest is paid by a financial institution on client funds deposited by attorneys or law firms in
17 pooled interest bearing accounts ~~established and maintained under circumstances which do not conflict~~
18 ~~with § 54.1-3915.1~~, any interest earned on such accounts shall be paid by the financial institution
19 periodically, but at least quarterly, to the Legal Services Corporation of Virginia.
20   B. The rules and regulations adopted under subsection A may be enforced by the Virginia State Bar,
21 or by the Attorney General if so authorized by the Virginia State Bar.
22   C. It shall be a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person, firm, corporation, or other organization to
23 render legal services as a legal aid society, or for any attorney to render legal services at the instance or
24 request of any such person, firm, corporation, or organization unless the person, firm, corporation, or
25 organization complies with the rules and regulations adopted under subsection A ~~hereof~~. In addition to
26 the criminal penalty, an injunction shall lie to prevent any violation of this section or rule or regulation
27 adopted hereunder.
28 **2. That § 54.1-3915.1 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.**