VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1997 RECONVENED SESSION

CHAPTER 914

An Act to amend and reenact § 2.1-37.17:1 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 4.1 of Title 2.1 a section numbered 2.1-37.8:1, relating to confidentiality of proceedings of the Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission; annual report; transmission of information to General Assembly members.

[S 1061]

Approved April 8, 1997

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 2.1-37.17:1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 4.1 of Title 2.1 a section numbered 2.1-37.8:1 as follows:

§ 2.1-37.8:1. Annual report.

On or before December 1 of each year, the Commission shall publish a report detailing the activities of the Commission for the prior year. The report shall include the number of complaints filed with the Commission; the number of complaints originating from attorneys, judges, court employees, or the general public; the number of complaints dismissed based on (i) failure to fall within the jurisdiction of the Commission, (ii) failure to state a violation of the Canons of Judicial Conduct, or (iii) failure of the Commission to reach a conclusion that the Canons were breached; the number of complaints for which the Commission concluded that the Canons of Judicial Conduct were breached; and the number of cases from which the staff or any member of the Commission recused himself due to an actual or possible conflict.

§ 2.1-37.17:1. Transmission of certain information to Virginia State Bar and House and Senate Committees for Courts of Justice.

The Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission is authorized shall transmit to:

1. The appropriate District Committee of the Virginia State Bar, any complaint or evidence with reference thereto that may come to its attention with reference to the alleged misconduct of a part-time judge or substitute judge of a court not of record which relates to his private practice of law;

2. The House Committee for Courts of Justice and the Senate Committee for Courts of Justice upon the request of the chairman of either committee, any evidence that it has in its possession with reference to the alleged misconduct of any judge whose election is to be considered at the next session of the General Assembly.