STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

SENATE BILL 1070 By: Paddack

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AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Solicitation of Charitable Contributions Act; stating purpose; amending 18 O.S. 2001, Sections 552.2, 552.3, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 366, O.S.L. 2005, 552.3a, 552.4, 552.5, 552.6, 552.7, 552.8, 552.9, 552.13, 552.15, and 552.16 (18 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 552.3), which relate to solicitation of charitable contributions; amending and adding definitions; adding non-profit organizations when referring to charitable organizations throughout the act; increasing certain fee; providing deposit to certain fund; deleting certain references to the Secretary of State and replacing it with the Attorney General throughout the act; amending contents of certain registration form and necessary attachments; clarifying types of certain communications; clarifying language; providing for execution and acknowledgement of registration form; removing certain exemption; amending contents of certain statement; requiring certain statements upon change of name; increasing certain fees; clarifying language; amending necessary content of professional fund-raiser registration application; deleting certain bond requirement; prohibiting employment of unregistered professional solicitors; providing for revocation; requiring certain consent; making certain information available; prohibiting persons from acting as professional fund-raisers in certain circumstances; requiring certain contracts and agreements be kept and maintained; deleting requirement that certain contracts be kept with regulating agencies; specifying what information must be in certain contracts; specifying when a professional solicitor must register; requiring a professional solicitor to provide certain information

upon request; prohibiting certain persons from acting as a professional solicitor; specifying what constitutes violations of the act; providing powers of the Attorney General and district attorneys; allowing and making provisions for consent judgments; specifying actions that may be taken by the court; requiring only one action be filed for the same transaction; allowing Attorney General or district attorney to conduct certain investigation; providing for investigative demands; providing for issuance of subpoenas and other process, oaths, and search warrants; providing exception; requiring certain information be kept confidential; providing civil penalty for violating the act; providing retention of jurisdiction for certain court; allowing Attorney General or district attorney to petition for recovery of civil penalties; authorizing the Attorney General and district attorneys to sue for and collect certain fees; providing how fees shall be expended; providing criminal penalties for certain acts; requiring the Attorney General to make certain information available on a website; requiring the Attorney General to create a registration numbering system; creating the "Charitable Solicitation Enforcement Revolving Fund"; specifying content and expenditure of fund; construing act to existing registrations; repealing 18 O.S. 2001, Sections 552.10, 552.11, 552.12, 552.14, 552.17, and 552.18, which relate to duplicate receipts, prohibited acts, prosecutions, non-exemption from certain ordinances and restrictions of political subdivisions and penalties; providing for codification; and providing an

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

effective date.

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 552.1a of Title 18, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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The Oklahoma Solicitation of Charitable Contributions Act is enacted for the purpose of promoting integrity and accountability in the charitable solicitation process; protecting donors and prospective donors who may be solicited for charitable contributions; educating the public, charitable organizations, professional fundraisers, and others in matters relating to ethical and appropriate behavior in fund-raising and charitable solicitation activities; preventing fraud and abuse in the fund-raising process of charitable organizations and in the solicitation of charitable contributions; and providing transparency to the public in fundraising and charitable solicitation activities of charitable organizations.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 18 O.S. 2001, Section 552.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 552.2 As used in this act:

- 1. "Person" means any individual, organization, group, association, partnership or, corporation, limited liability company, trust, or other entity, except as otherwise provided in this act;
- 2. "Charitable organization" means any philanthropic,
 patriotic, eleemosynary, educational, social, civic, recreational,
 religious or any other person performing or purporting to perform
 acts beneficial to the public person, other than an individual,
 soliciting contributions in this state, that is covered under
 Section 501(c) of Title 26 of the United States Code who solicits

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    contributions as described in this act and that is organized and
    operated primarily for religious, charitable, scientific, literary,
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    educational, artistic, cultural, economic development, civic
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    improvement, testing for public safety, research, humanitarian,
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    animal welfare, recreational, or environmental protection purposes;
    to foster national or international amateur sports competition (but
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    only if no part of its activities involve the provision of athletic
    facilities or equipment); to prevent cruelty to children, the
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    elderly, identified populations, or animals; to relieve poverty,
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    hunger, or homelessness; to support law enforcement or citizen
    protection organizations or agencies; or to provide emergency
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relief;

- 3. "Contribution" means the promise, gift, donation, payment, pledge, or grant of any money or property of any kind or value, including any contribution for operations, capital, endowment, reserves, dues, memberships, program support, naming opportunities, or other uses. "Contribution" does not include a payment for goods, services, admission to a museum, performances or programs sold or provided by a charitable organization, if the payment reflects the bona fide fair market value of the goods or services provided;
- 4. "Non-profit organization" means any corporation organized
 under the laws of this state, or qualified to do business in

 Oklahoma in a corporate or organized capacity by virtue of creation
 or organization under the laws of this or any other state, territory

or district if such organization is neither organized for profit nor operated for profit, irrespective of the form of organization;

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5. "Professional fund-raiser" means any person who for compensation or other consideration plans, conducts or manages in this state the solicitation of contributions for or on behalf of any charitable organization or any other person, or who engages in the business of or holds himself or herself out to persons in this state as independently engaged in the business of soliciting contributions for such purpose. For purposes of this act, "professional fundraiser" does not include an employee of a charitable organization who engages in such activities for the charitable organization for whom he or she is employed; nor does it include any volunteer who receives no payment, compensation, or remuneration of any kind for soliciting any contributions, provided, a volunteer may receive credit for fulfilling any community service requirement of an educational institution or government agency. In addition, for this purpose "consideration" does not include incidental benefits that might be received by a non-compensated person, such as meals, supplies, or similar support, and does not include reimbursement for expenses incurred by any person in his or her solicitation activities;

5. 6. "Professional solicitor" means any person who is employed or retained for compensation or other consideration of any kind whatsoever by a professional fund-raiser to solicit contributions in

1 this state for or on behalf of any charitable organization or any other person. "Professional solicitor" does not include a volunteer 2 who engages in such activities if the volunteer receives no payment, 3 compensation or remuneration of any kind for soliciting any 4 5 contributions, provided a volunteer may receive credit for fulfilling any community service requirement of an educational 6 institution or government agency. In addition, for this purpose 7 "consideration" does not include incidental benefits that might be 8 9 received by a non-compensated person, such as meals, supplies, or similar support, and does not include reimbursement for expenses 10 incurred by any person in his or her solicitation activities; and 11 6. 7. "Professional fund-raising counsel" means an entity any 12 person that, alone or through its employees and agents, offers or 13 provides, for compensation or other consideration, services for 14 compensation, including, planning, organizing, managing, or 15 preparing materials to be used in conjunction with any solicitation, 16 to a charitable organization in that is directly involved in fund-17 raising or the solicitation of contributions, including, but not 18 limited to, planning, managing, or preparing materials to be used in 19 conjunction with any solicitation; provided, that the entity as long 20 as such person does not: 21

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through its employees and agents, or

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a. directly or indirectly solicit contributions alone or

b. <u>accept</u>, receive, <u>hold</u>, have access to, <u>maintain</u>,
 <u>manage</u>, <u>invest</u>, or control any contribution generated
 by the solicitation activity.

8. "Solicitation" means the request or appeal, directly or indirectly, for any contribution on the plea or representation that such contribution will be used for a charitable purpose.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 18 O.S. 2001, Section 552.3, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 366, O.S.L. 2005 (18 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 552.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 552.3 A. No charitable organization or non-profit organization, except those specifically exempt under Section 552.4 of this title, shall solicit or accept contributions from any person in this state by any means whatsoever until the charitable or non-profit organization shall have registered with the Office of the Secretary of State Attorney General and filed information, as required by this act the Oklahoma Solicitation of Charitable Contributions Act, on forms approved by that office. At the time of registration, each charitable or non-profit organization shall pay a fee of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), which shall be deposited to the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury Charitable Solicitation Enforcement Revolving Fund. Registration shall be valid for a period of one (1) year from the date of filing with the Secretary of State Attorney General, and shall be subject to annual renewal. This registration Registration shall not be

1 deemed to constitute an endorsement by the state or by the Secretary 2 of State Attorney General of the charitable or non-profit organizations so registered or the proposed uses of the funds 3 The information so filed shall be available to the 4 solicited. 5 general public as a matter of public record. The forms containing the information shall be signed and acknowledged by a party duly 6 authorized to sign on behalf of the charitable organization and 7 shall include the following:

- 1. The legal name of the charitable <u>or non-profit</u> organization, <u>any trade names that the charitable or non-profit organization uses</u>, any other name the organization may be identified as or known as, and any distinctive names the organization uses for purposes of <u>public</u> solicitation <u>of contributions</u>;
- 2. The street address and the mailing address, if different, of the charitable or non-profit organization, except if the Attorney

 General determines that to do so would cause a safety concern;
 - 3. The name and street address of:
 - each officer, including each principal salaried
 executive staff officer,
 - b. each director,

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- c. each trustee,
- d. each person who with the professional fund-raiser, professional solicitor, charitable organization or non-

profit organization that will have custody of the contributions, and

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- e. each person with the professional fund-raiser,

 professional solicitor, charitable organization or nonprofit organization that is responsible for the

 distribution of funds collected;
- 4. The purposes for which the contributions solicited or accepted are to be used; provided, however, no contribution or any portion thereof shall inure to the private benefit of any voluntary solicitor;
- 5. A copy of Internal Revenue Form 990 or other form as required by the Internal Revenue Service as filed by the charitable or non-profit organization with the Internal Revenue Service for the most recently completed fiscal year; or, for the initial registration of a newly formed organization, a copy of a letter from the Internal Revenue Service, or other evidence, showing the tax exempt status of the charitable that such organization is exempt from federal income taxation;
- 6. The period of time <u>or periods</u> during which the solicitation is solicitations are to be conducted, which may be specific periods, estimated or projected time frames, or continuous, and which may involve different periods for different types of solicitations by the same charitable or non-profit organization;

7. A description of the specific method or methods of solicitation:

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- 8. Whether the solicitation is to be conducted by voluntary unpaid solicitors, by paid solicitors, or both;
- If the solicitation is to be conducted in whole or in part by paid solicitors professional fund-raisers, the name names and address addresses of each professional fund-raiser supplying the solicitors, which includes involved in the solicitation, including any professional fund-raising counsel who is acting or has agreed to act on behalf of the organization; the basis of payment or other consideration payable to each professional fund-raiser and fundraising counsel and the nature of the arrangement, including a copy of the contract or other agreement between the charitable organization and the professional fund raiser or fund raising counsel relating to financial compensation or profit to be derived by the fund raisers or fund raising counsel arrangements between the charitable or non-profit organization and each professional fundraiser and fund-raising counsel, the specific amount, formula or percentage of compensation, or property of any kind or value to be paid or paid provided to the each professional fund-raiser, and fund-raising counsel; and if payment is based on a percentage, the percentage value of compensation as compared:

a. to with the total contributions received, and

b. to the net amount of the total contributions received (total contributions received, less expenses of solicitation other than amounts payable to any professional fund-raiser or fund-raising counsel); and

10. Additional Such additional information as may be deemed the Attorney General may consider necessary and or appropriate by the Secretary of State in the public interest or for the specific protection of contributors, donors, beneficiaries of the charitable or non-profit organization or others.

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- B. Any fraternal or membership organization not based in Oklahoma which that solicits contributions from any person of in this state by telephone or other communication device, or the Internet, or contracts with professional fund-raisers to solicit such contributions, shall be required to have at least one member or employee of the fraternal or membership organization residing within the in any county where the call, communication, or solicitation is received.
- SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 18 O.S. 2001, Section 552.3a, is amended to read as follows:
- Section 552.3a Every registration instrument form required to be filed with the Secretary of State Attorney General pursuant to the Oklahoma Solicitation of Charitable Contributions Act shall be executed and acknowledged as follows:

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1. By formal acknowledgment of the person or persons signing the instrument that it is that person's act and deed or the act and deed of the organization, and that the facts stated therein are true. The acknowledgment shall be made before a person who is authorized by the law of the place of execution to take acknowledgments of deeds and if that person has a seal of office, that person shall affix it to the instrument; or
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- 2. By by signature, without more, of the person or persons signing the instrument form, in which case the signature or signatures shall constitute the affirmation or acknowledgment of the signatory, under penalties of perjury, that the instrument signature is that person's act and deed or the act and deed of the organization, and that the facts stated therein are true.
- SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 18 O.S. 2001, Section 552.4, is amended to read as follows:
 - Section 552.4 Except as otherwise specifically provided in this act, the provisions of Sections 552.3 and 552.5 of this title shall not apply to the following persons:
 - (1) Organizations incorporated for religious purposes and actually engaged in bona fide religious programs, and other organizations directly operated, supervised, or controlled by a religious organization;
 - (2) Educational institutions which that have a faculty, regularly enrolled students and offer courses of study leading to

the granting of recognized degrees when solicitations of contributions are confined to its student body and their families, alumni, faculty and trustees;

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- (3) Fraternal organizations, when soliciting from their own members, and patriotic and civic organizations, when solicitation of contributions is confined to the membership of said organizations, and the solicitation is managed by their own membership without paid solicitors;
- (4) Persons soliciting contributions for a named individual person, when such individual person is specified by name at the time of solicitation, the purpose for such contribution is clearly stated, and if the gross contributions collected, without any deductions whatsoever for the benefit of the solicitor or any other person, be deposited directly to an account in the name of the beneficiary established for that purpose at a licensed local bank, and if such contributions are used for the direct benefit of the named individual person as beneficiary; and
- (5) Any organization which collects from charitable solicitations less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per year.
- SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 18 O.S. 2001, Section 552.5, is amended to read as follows:
- Section 552.5 A. Every charitable <u>or non-profit</u> organization subject to the provisions of Section 552.1 et seq. of this title which has received contributions during the previous calendar year

shall file a statement with the Secretary of State, executed and

Attorney General, signed by a party duly authorized to act on behalf

of the charitable or non-profit organization, which contains the

most recent following information, as follows with respect to the

contributions:

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- 1. The name, street address, and telephone number of the charitable or non-profit organization, any trade names that the charitable or non-profit organization uses, any other name such organization may be identified or known as, and any distinctive names such organization uses for purposes of solicitation of contributions; the street address and mailing address, if different, of the charitable or non-profit organization, except if the Attorney General determines that to do so would cause a safety concern; and any telephone numbers;
- 2. The gross amount of the contributions, committed, pledged, received or collected;
- 3. The gross amount given received or collected or to be given to the for each charitable purpose represented or identified in connection with the solicitation;
- 4. The aggregate amount paid and to be paid for the expenses of solicitation to professional fund-raisers and fund-raising counsels; and
- 5. The aggregate amount paid to and to be paid to professional fund raisers and solicitors period of time or periods during which

solicitations are to be conducted, which may be specific periods,

estimated or projected time frames, or continuous, and which may

involve different periods for different types of solicitations by

the same charitable or non-profit organization.

- B. The financial statement prescribed information specified in subsection A of this section shall be submitted with the initial registration, and with each annual renewal, thereafter.
- registered with the Secretary of State Attorney General to solicit contributions in the State of Oklahoma which shall change this state changes its name or the mailing address of its principal office, or plans to engage in the solicitation of contributions using a name that is not listed on its registration form, then at least thirty days prior to its annual renewal date soliciting any funds in this state using any such name the charitable or non-profit organization shall file with the Secretary of State Attorney General a statement executed by an authorized officer of the organization setting forth its any new name and/or mailing address and shall pay a filing fee of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00), which shall be deposited in the Charitable Solicitation Enforcement Revolving Fund.
- 22 SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 18 O.S. 2001, Section 552.6, is 23 amended to read as follows:

Section 552.6 Every charitable organization shall keep and maintain a full and true record in such form as will enable such charitable organization to accurately provide the information required herein. All records required hereunder shall be open to inspection at all times by the Office of the Secretary of State and its employees Attorney General, and upon demand shall be presented to that office for inspection.

SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 18 O.S. 2001, Section 552.7, is amended to read as follows:

Section 552.7 A. No person shall act as a professional fundraiser for any charitable organization, including those organizations listed under Section 552.4 of this title, until the person has first registered with the Office of the Secretary of State Attorney General. Applications for registrations registration, signed and acknowledged by a party duly authorized to act on behalf of the professional fund-raiser, shall state the full, legal name of the professional fund-raiser, the street address of the principal place of business of the professional fund-raiser, the full, legal names and street addresses of the charitable or non-profit organizations with which it has entered into contracts or agreements, relating to the solicitation of contributions, the names of all professional solicitors employed by the professional fund-raiser who will be involved in the solicitation of contributions for the charitable or non-profit organization and such other information

1 as the Attorney General deems necessary or appropriate in the public interest or for the protection of contributors, donors, 2 beneficiaries of the charitable or non-profit organization or 3 The registration form shall also be accompanied by an 4 5 annual fee in the sum amount of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) Three Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$350.00), to be deposited to in the General 6 Revenue Fund of the State Treasury Charitable Solicitation 7 Enforcement Revolving Fund. The applicant shall, at the time of 8 9 making application, file with the Secretary of State a bond in which 10 the applicant shall be the principal obligor, in the sum of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00), with one or more sureties 11 12 whose liability in the aggregate as sureties shall at least equal 13 that sum. The bond shall run to the Secretary of State for the use of the state and to any person, including a charitable organization, 14 who may have a cause of action against the obligor of the bond for 15 any malfeasance or misfeasance of the obligor or any professional 16 17 solicitor employed by him or her in the conduct of the solicitation. Registration shall be valid for a period of one (1) year from the 18 date of filing with the Secretary of State Attorney General, and may 19 be renewed annually upon the filing of a renewal application 20 accompanied by the bond and fee prescribed herein. 21

B. No professional fund-raiser or solicitor shall engage in fund-raising activities the solicitation of contributions for a charitable or non-profit organization which that is not registered

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with the Secretary of State Attorney General unless the organization is exempt from registration.

- C. Every professional fund-raiser registered with the Secretary of State Attorney General which shall change its name or the mailing address of its principal office, or plans to engage in professional fund-raising activities using a name that is not listed on its registration form, shall at least thirty days prior to its annual renewal date shall engaging in such activities file with the Secretary of State Attorney General a statement executed by an authorized officer of the organization setting forth its new name or mailing address and pay a filing fee of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00), which shall be deposited in the Charitable Solicitation Enforcement Revolving Fund.
- D. The professional fund-raiser shall not employ or retain a professional solicitor who is not registered pursuant to this act.

 The Attorney General may revoke the registration of any professional fund-raiser who violates the provisions of this subsection.
- E. No professional fund-raiser shall solicit any contribution for a charitable or non-profit organization without the consent of such organization.
- F. The Attorney General shall make available on its website a list of all professional fund-raisers registered pursuant to this act.

G. No person shall act as a professional fund-raiser if the officers, directors, or any person with a controlling interest in the business, or any person the professional fund-raiser employs or retains to solicit charitable contributions or to advise, consult, plan, or manage the solicitation of any contributions, has been convicted by a court of any state or the United States of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or arising from his or her conduct in connection with fund-raising activities, the solicitation of any funds, or the use or expenditure of any funds raised, collected, or received in any fund-raising activity. SECTION 9. AMENDATORY 18 O.S. 2001, Section 552.8, is amended to read as follows: Section 552.8 A. All contracts or other and agreements entered into by professional fund raisers and a charitable organizations or non-profit organization with a professional fund-raiser or professional fund-raising counsel shall be in writing and true and correct copies thereof shall be kept. The charitable or non-profit organization and the professional fund-raiser or professional fundraising counsel shall each keep and maintain such contracts and agreements on file in the their principal offices of the charitable organization and the professional fund raiser for a period of three (3) years from the date of that the solicitation of contributions provided for therein actually commences. These contracts and agreements shall be available for inspection and examination by the

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- Office of the Secretary of State and other authorized agencies. At

 least one copy of every contract or other agreement shall be on file

 at all times in that office and shall be available to the general
 - B. The contract shall clearly state:

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1. The respective obligations of each party;

public as a matter of public record Attorney General.

- 2. The compensation arrangement. If the compensation payable
 to the professional fund-raiser is based on a percentage or formula,

 the percentage of the gross revenue derived in connection with the
 solicitation that the charitable or non-profit organization will
 receive or other formula for payment;
 - 3. Any goods or services to be offered to the public;
 - 4. The geographic area where the campaign will take place;
- 5. The period of time or periods during which solicitations are
 to be conducted, which may be specific periods, estimated or
 projected time frames, or continuous, and which may involve
 different periods for different types of solicitations by the same
 charitable or non-profit organization;
 - 6. A fund-raising budget; and
- 7. Provisions for a final accounting.
- The contract shall also describe in reasonable detail the

 services to be provided by the professional fund-raiser and shall

 clearly state whether the professional fund-raiser may, at any time,

 have custody, possession or control of any contributions.

SECTION 10. AMENDATORY 18 O.S. 2001, Section 552.9, is amended to read as follows:

Section 552.9 A. Every professional solicitor employed or retained by a professional fund-raiser required to register <u>pursuant to this act</u>, shall, before accepting employment engaging in any solicitation of contributions by the professional fund-raiser, register with the Office of the Secretary of State Attorney General. An application for registration, signed by the solicitor and acknowledged, shall state the full, legal name and street address of the professional fund-raiser that employs the solicitor and shall be accompanied by a fee in the sum amount of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) to be deposited to in the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury Charitable Solicitation Enforcement Revolving Fund. Registration shall be for a period of one (1) year from the date of filing by with the Secretary of State Attorney General, and may be renewed annually upon the filing of a renewal application accompanied by a payment of the fee prescribed herein.

- B. When orally requesting a contribution or when requesting a contribution in writing, the professional solicitor shall clearly disclose the following if requested by the person being solicited:
- 1. The name of the professional fund-raiser the professional solicitor is employed or retained by as set out in the registration statement filed with the Attorney General and the fact that the professional fund-raiser is being paid for his or her services;

2. The name of the charitable or non-profit organization he or she represents and a description of how the contributions raised by the solicitation will be used for a charitable or civic purpose; and

- 3. The percentage of the contributions solicited that the professional fund-raiser is to receive and the registration number of the professional fund-raiser, the charitable or non-profit organization and the professional solicitor, as requested.
- C. No person shall act as a professional solicitor if he or she has been convicted by a court of any state or the United States of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or arising from his or her conduct in connection with fund-raising activities, the solicitation of any funds, or the use or expenditure of any funds raised, collected, or received in any fund-raising activity.

 SECTION 11. AMENDATORY 18 O.S. 2001, Section 552.13, is

amended to read as follows:

Section 552.13 The Secretary of State Attorney General may enter into reciprocal agreements with a like authority of any other state or states for the purpose of exchanging information made available to the Secretary of State Attorney General. Pursuant to such agreements the Secretary of State Attorney General may accept information filed by a charitable or non-profit organization with another state in lieu of the information required to be filed by a charitable or non-profit organization in accordance with the provisions of Section 552.3 of this title, if such information is

substantially similar to the information required to be filed under Section 552.3 of this title.

SECTION 12. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 552.14a of Title 18, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

- A. The following shall be deemed violations of this act:
- 1. Knowingly making any false material statement or representation on a registration application;

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- 2. Using the name of a person or other entity when soliciting contributions or in an advertisement, brochure, stationery or correspondence, without the consent or approval of such person or entity, other than an officer, director or trustee of the charitable or non-profit organization by or for which contributions are solicited. This paragraph shall not apply to the use of the name of a person or entity that has contributed to or sponsored an event or program of the charitable or non-profit organization in a report, brochure, program or listing of donors, contributors sponsors, or supporters issued or published by a charitable or non-profit organization;
- 3. Using a name that is deceptively similar to another charitable or non-profit organization, professional fund-raiser, professional solicitor or government agency or political subdivision that use thereof would tend to confuse or mislead the public;

4. Knowingly using for the purpose of deceiving the public, a name similar to other charitable or non-profit organizations, professional fund raiser, professional solicitor or governmental agency or political subdivision;

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- 5. Failing to register as required pursuant to Sections 552.3, 552.7 or 552.9, as applicable, of Title 18 of the Oklahoma Statutes unless otherwise exempted by this act.
- 6. Employing in any solicitation or collection of contributions for a charitable or non-profit organization any device, scheme or artifice to defraud or for obtaining money or property by means of any false pretense, representation or promise; and
- 7. Failing or refusing to supply requested information as required by Section 552.9 of Title 18 of the Oklahoma Statutes.
- B. The Attorney General or a district attorney may bring an action:
 - 1. To obtain a declaratory judgment that an act or practice violates this act;
 - 2. To enjoin, or to obtain a restraining order against a person who has violated or is violating this act;
 - 3. To recover actual damages, restitution, disgorgement and penalties attributed to a violation of this act;
 - 4. To recover reasonable expenses and investigation fees; and
- 5. To prosecute any civil or criminal actions as provided by this act, as applicable.

The Attorney General may also administratively revoke the registration of a charitable or non-profit organization, professional fund raiser, or professional solicitor for any violation of this act.

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In lieu of instigating or continuing an action or proceeding, the Attorney General or a district attorney may accept a consent judgment with respect to any act or practice declared to be a violation of this act. Such a consent judgment shall provide for the discontinuance by the person entering the same of any act or practice declared to be a violation of this act, and it may include a stipulation for the payment by such person of reasonable expenses, attorney fees, investigation costs and penalties incurred by the Attorney General or a district attorney. The consent judgment also may include a stipulation for restitution to be made by such person to contributors of money, property or other things received from contributors in connection with a violation of this act and also may include a stipulation for specific performance. Any consent judgment entered into pursuant to this section shall not be deemed to admit the violation, unless it does so by its terms. Before any consent judgment entered into pursuant to this section shall be effective, it must be approved by the district court and an entry made in the manner required for making an entry of judgment. After such approval is received, any breach of the conditions of such

- consent judgment shall be treated as a violation of a court order, and shall be subject to all the penalties provided by law therefor.
 - D. In any action brought by the Attorney General or a district attorney, the court may:
 - 1. Make such orders or judgments as may be necessary to prevent the use or employment by a person of any practice declared to be a violation of this act;
 - 2. Make such orders or judgments as may be necessary to compensate any person for damages sustained;
 - 3. Enjoin any person from engaging in solicitation of charitable contributions in this state;
 - 4. Revoke the registration of a charitable or non-profit organization, professional fund-raiser or professional solicitor;
 - 5. Enter any order that is appropriate in a criminal prosecution of crimes identified in this act or any other state law; and
 - 6. Grant other appropriate relief.

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E. When an action is filed under this act by the Attorney General or a district attorney, no action seeking an injunction or declaratory judgment shall be filed in any other county or district in this state based upon the same transaction or occurrence, series of transactions or occurrences, or allegations that form the basis of the first action filed.

When the Attorney General or a district attorney has reason to believe a person has engaged in, is engaging in or is about to engage in any practice declared to be in violation of this act and he or she believes it to be in the public interest that an investigation should be made to ascertain whether a person has in fact engaged in, is engaging in or is about to engage in any such practice, he or she may execute in writing and cause to be served upon any such person who is believed to have information, documentary material or physical evidence relevant to the alleged violation an investigative demand requiring such person to furnish, under oath or otherwise, a report in writing setting forth the nonprivileged relevant facts and circumstances of which he or she has knowledge, or to appear and testify, or to produce relevant nonprivileged documentary material or physical evidence for examination at such reasonable time and place as may be stated in the investigative demand, concerning the solicitation of charitable contributions.

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G. To accomplish the objectives and to carry out the duties prescribed by this act, the Attorney General or district attorney, in addition to other powers conferred on them by this act or the laws of this state, may issue subpoenas or other process to any person and conduct hearings in aid of any investigation or inquiry, administer oaths and take sworn statements under penalty of perjury, serve and execute in any county, search warrants, provided, that

none of the powers conferred by this act shall be used for the purpose of compelling any natural person to furnish testimony or evidence that might tend to incriminate him or subject him to a penalty or forfeiture; and provided further, that information obtained pursuant to the powers conferred by this act shall not be made public or disclosed by the Attorney General, district attorney or their employees.

- H. In addition to any other penalties provided under this act, a charitable or non-profit organization, professional fund-raiser, or professional solicitor who is found to be in violation of the Oklahoma Solicitation of Charitable Contributions Act in a civil action or who willfully violates the terms of any injunction or court order issued pursuant to the Oklahoma Solicitation of Charitable Contributions Act shall forfeit and pay a civil penalty of not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) per violation, in addition to other penalties that may be imposed by the court, as the court shall deem necessary and proper. For the purposes of this section, the district court issuing an injunction shall retain jurisdiction, and in such cases, the Attorney General, acting in the name of the state, or a district attorney may petition for recovery of civil penalties.
- I. In administering and pursuing actions under this act, the Attorney General and a district attorney are authorized to sue for and collect reasonable expenses, attorney fees, and investigation

fees as determined by the court. Civil penalties or contempt
penalties sued for and recovered by the Attorney General or a
district attorney shall be used for the furtherance of their duties
and activities under this act.

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- J. In addition to other penalties imposed by this act, any person convicted in a criminal proceeding of committing an act prohibited in paragraphs 1, 4 and/or 6 of subsection A of this section, shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction thereof shall be subject to a fine not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) or imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for not more than five (5) years, or both such fine and imprisonment.
- SECTION 13. AMENDATORY 18 O.S. 2001, Section 552.15, is amended to read as follows:

Section 552.15 Any charitable or non-profit organization, professional fund_raiser or professional solicitor, resident or having his or her or its principal place of business without the State of Oklahoma or organized under and by virtue of the laws of a foreign state who or which shall solicit contributions from people in this state, shall be deemed to have irrevocably appointed the Secretary of State as his or her or its agent upon whom may be served any summons, subpoena, subpoena duces tecum or other process directed to such charitable or non-profit organization, or any partner, principal, officer, or director thereof or to such

1 professional solicitor, in any action or proceeding brought by the Attorney General under the provisions of this act the Oklahoma Solicitation of Charitable Contributions Act. Service of such process upon the Secretary of State shall be made by personally delivering to and leaving with him or her or an assistant Secretary of State a copy thereof at the office of the Secretary of State in the city of Oklahoma City, and such service shall be sufficient service provided that notice of such service and a copy of such process are forthwith sent by the Attorney General to such charitable or non-profit organization, professional fund-raiser or professional solicitor by registered mail with return receipt requested, at his or her or its office as set forth in the registration form required to be filed by this act the Oklahoma Solicitation of Charitable Contributions Act or, in default of the 14 filing of such form, at the last address known to the Attorney Service of such process shall be complete ten (10) days General. after the receipt by the Attorney General of a return receipt purporting to be signed by the addressee or a person qualified to receive his or her or its registered mail, in accordance with the rules and customs of the post office department, or, if acceptance was refused by the addressee or his or her or its agent, ten (10) days after the return to the Attorney General of the original envelope bearing a notation by the postal authorities that receipt thereof was refused.

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SECTION 14. AMENDATORY 18 O.S. 2001, Section 552.16, is amended to read as follows:

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Section 552.16 This act shall not be construed to limit or to restrict the exercise of the powers or the performance of the duties of the Attorney General or of any county district attorney of this state which they otherwise are authorized to exercise or perform under any other provision of law.

SECTION 15. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 552.19 of Title 18, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The Attorney General shall make available on the Attorney General's website or other appropriate website all pertinent information, as determined by the Attorney General, related to the entities that are required to register under this act. The Attorney General shall also create a numbering system for the registrations required under this act.

SECTION 16. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 552.20 of Title 18, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund for the Office of the Attorney General to be designated the "Charitable Solicitation Enforcement Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the Office of the

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    Attorney General from sources provided under this act and any
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    appropriations made by the Legislature. All monies accruing to the
    credit of the fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and
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    expended by the Attorney General for the purpose of enforcing the
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    provisions of the Oklahoma Solicitation of Charitable Contributions
    Act. Expenditures from the fund shall be made upon warrants issued
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    by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law
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    with the Director of State Finance for approval and payment.
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        SECTION 17.
                        NEW LAW
                                    A new section of law to be codified
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    in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 552.21 of Title 18, unless there
    is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
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        All registrations, unless otherwise terminated pursuant to this
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    act, made prior to the effective date of this act shall remain
    effective until they expire and any registrations occurring after
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    the effective date of this act shall be made with the Office of the
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    Attorney General pursuant to this act.
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        SECTION 18.
                        REPEALER
                                      18 O.S. 2001, Sections 552.10,
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    552.11, 552.12, 552.14, 552.17, and 552.18, are hereby repealed.
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        SECTION 19.
                     This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.
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