

## No. 347.

## AN ACT

Relating to and regulating the solicitation of moneys and property for charitable, religious, benevolent, humane, and patriotic purposes.

Department of Welfare.

Funds not to be solicited for charitable, benevolent or patriotic purposes unless appeal authorized by holder of certificate.

Written appeal must state name of holder of certificate, etc.

Statement to be filed by applicant for certificate.

Department may issue certificate.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That thirty days after the approval of this act it shall be unlawful for any person, copartnership, association, or corporation, except in accordance with the provisions of this act, to appeal to the public for donations or subscriptions in money or in other property, or to sell or offer for sale to the public any thing or object whatever to raise money, or to secure or attempt to secure money or donations or other property by promoting any public bazaar, sale, entertainment, or exhibition, or by any similar means for any charitable, benevolent, or patriotic purpose, or for the purpose of ministering to the material or spiritual needs of human beings, either in the United States or elsewhere, or of relieving suffering of animals, or of inculcating patriotism, unless the appeal is authorized by and the money or other property is to be given to a corporation, copartnership, association, or individual holding a valid certificate of registration from the Department of Welfare, issued as herein provided.

Section 2. Any written appeal to the public for any such purpose must state the name of the copartnership, association, or corporation by which or of the individual by whom it is authorized that a certificate of registration, as herein provided, has been duly issued to it or him, and must be signed by an officer of the corporation or member of the copartnership or association or by the individual.

Section 3. Any corporation, copartnership, association, or individual desiring to obtain a certificate of registration for any of such purposes shall file with the Department of Welfare, on blanks prepared by the department, a statement verified by an officer of the corporation, copartnership, association, or by the individual, and containing such information as the Department of Welfare may require. Other statements shall be filed from time to time under oath containing such information as the department may require.

Section 4. If the Department of Welfare deems the corporation, copartnership, association, or individual filing such statement a proper one and not inimical to the public welfare or safety and its appeal or proposed appeals to be for truly charitable, benevolent, or patriotic purposes, or for the purpose of ministering to the

material or spiritual needs of human beings in the United States or elsewhere, or of relieving suffering of animals, or of inculcating patriotism, it shall issue to such corporation, copartnership, person, or association filing the required statement, a certificate of registration for the particular purpose described and for the necessary period. If the department deems the corporation, copartnership, association, or individual an improper one, or the purposes of its appeal improper under the provisions of this act, it shall refuse to issue a certificate of registration. No registration certificate shall be valid for a longer period than one year from its date of issue. The Department of Welfare before granting a certificate, as herein provided, may hold such hearings as may be deemed necessary to satisfy itself that the individual, copartnership, association, or corporation filing a statement is entitled to a certificate of registration in accordance with this act.

Department may refuse certificate.

Valid for one year.

Hearings.

Section 5. If any statement required by the Department of Welfare is not filed the department shall notify the delinquent corporation, copartnership, association, or individual by mailing a notice to its or his last known address, and if the statement be not filed within two weeks after the mailing of such notice the department shall cancel its or his certificates of registration. The department may also cancel any certificate of registration whenever it is satisfied that contributions are used for unworthy purposes or where the individual, copartnership, association, or corporation holding a certificate of registration engages in practices deemed sufficient in the discretion of the department to refuse a certificate of registration.

Failure to file statement.

Department may cancel certificate.

Section 6. All statements filed under the provisions of this act shall be public records and shall be open to inspection in the office of the department at such time and under such conditions as the department may by regulation prescribe.

Statements to be public records.

Section 7. No person shall solicit or collect any contributions in money or other property for any of the purposes set forth in this act without a written authorization from the corporation, copartnership, or association for which or the individual for whom the contribution is made, and the authorization must be shown to any person on request. The authorization must be signed by an officer of the corporation or member of the copartnership or association for which or by the individual for whom the contribution is collected, and must set forth the percentage of collection, or other compensation for collection, to be paid to the persons so soliciting or collecting contributions.

Written authorization by party holding certificate.

Section 8. The Department of Welfare may prescribe a form for all statements and accounts, which shall be in such detail as may be prescribed by the department by regulation. The department may make

Form of statements.

Rules and regula- tions.	other rules and regulations necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act.
Fees.	Section 9. A fee of two dollars shall be paid to the Department of Welfare by every association, copartnership, corporation, or individual at the time of filing the original statement. All fees shall be paid by the department into the State Treasury.
Violation.	Section 10. Any person who or any copartnership association or corporation which violates any of the provisions of this act or any of the rules and regulations made under the authority of this act, or fails to file any statement required to be filed within the period fixed by the law, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable, in case of a corporation, copartnership, or association by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars or more than one thousand dollars; in the case of an individual, either by such fine or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.
Misdemeanor.	
Penalties.	
Certain organiza- tions exempt.	Section 11. This act shall not apply to fraternal organizations incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth, religious organizations, colleges, schools, universities, labor unions, municipalities or subdivisions thereof, community organizations within the Commonwealth, nor to charitable institutions or agencies required by the provisions of existing law to file reports with the Department of Welfare or with any other department or office of the Commonwealth.
Act of June 20, 1919 (P. L. 505), repealed.	Section 12. The act of June twentieth, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen (Pamphlet Laws, five hundred and five), entitled "An act relating to and regulating the solicitation of moneys and property for charitable and patriotic purposes," is hereby repealed. All other acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.
Repeal.	

APPROVED—The 13th day of May, A. D. 1925.

GIFFORD PINCHOT.