UPERSON OF STATE

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1985

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 6/3

(By Mr. Doethree

PASSED Grie 13. 1985
In Effect Munity days from Passage

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ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

Senate Bill No. 613

(By Mr. Boettner, original sponsor)

(Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary.)

[Passed April 13, 1985; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections two, three, five, six, seven, nine, eleven, thirteen and fifteen, article nineteen, chapter twenty-nine of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, all relating to solicitation of charitable funds; definitions; reallocating powers and duties of commission on charitable organizations and secretary of state; registration of charitable organizations; filing of solicitation contracts; removing fifteen percent limitation on payments for solicitation activities; prohibited acts, enforcement and penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That sections two, three, five, six, seven, nine, eleven, thirteen and fifteen, article nineteen, chapter twenty-nine of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

§29-19-2. Definitions.

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As used in this article:

(1) "Charitable organization" means a person who is or holds itself out to be a benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane, patriotic, religious or eleemosynary organization, or any person who solicits or obtains contributions solicited from the public for charitable purposes, or any person who in any manner employs any appeal for contributions which may be 9 reasonably interpreted to suggest that such contibutions 10 will be used for charitable purposes. A chapter, branch, 11 area, office or similar affiliate or any person soliciting 12 contributions within the state for a charitable organization 13 which has its principal place of business outside the state is 14 a charitable organization for the purposes of this article. 15 This definition does not include religious organizations or 16 any group affiliated with and forming an integral part of 17 said organization of which no part of the net income inures 18 to the direct benefit of any individual and which have 19 received a declaration of current tax exempt status from the 20 government of the United States nor does this definition 21 include any single church congregation located in the 22county or local congregation of any religious affiliation or 23any community youth athletic organization or any 24 community civic or service club. No such affiliated group 25may be required to obtain such declaration if the parent or 26 principal organization shall have obtained same. 27

(2) "Contributions" means the promise or grant of any money or property of any kind or value.

(3) "Federated fund-raising organization" means a federation of independent charitable organizations which 30 have voluntarily joined together, including, but not limited to, a united fund or community chest, for purposes of 33 raising and distributing money for and among themselves 34 and where membership does not confer operating authority 35 and control of the individual agencies upon the federated 36 group organization.

(4) "Parent organization" is that part of a charitable organization which coordinates, supervises or exercises control over policy, fund raising and expenditures, or assists, receives funds from or advises one or more chapters,

41 branches or affiliates in the state.

- 42 (5) "Person" means any individual, organization, trust, foundation, group, association, partnership, corporation, 43
- society or any combination of them. 44
- "Professional fund-raising counsel" means any 45
- person who for a flat fixed fee under a written agreement 46
- 47 plans, conducts, manages, carriers on, advises or acts as a
- consultant, whether directly or indirectly, in connection 48
- with soliciting contributions for, or on behalf of any 49 50
- charitable organization but who actually solicits no contributions as a part of such services. A bona fide salaried 51
- 52 officer or employee of a charitable organization
- maintaining a permanent establishment within the state 53
- shall not be deemed to be a professional fund-raising 54
- counsel. 55
- 56 "Professional solicitor" means any person who, for a
- 57 financial or other consideration, solicits contributions for. 58 or on behalf of a charitable organization, whether such
- solicitation is performed personally or through said 59
- 60 person's agents, servants or employees specially employed
- by, or for a charitable organization, who are engaged in the 61
- 62 solicitation of contributions under the direction of such
- person, or a person who plans, conducts, manages, carries 63 on, advises or acts as a consultant to a charitable 64
- organization in connection with the solicitation of 65
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- contributions but does not qualify as "professional fund-
- 67 raising counsel" within the meaning of this article. A bona
- fide salaried officer or employee of a charitable 68 69 organization maintaining a permanent establishment
- 70 within the state is not a professional solicitor.
- 71 No attorney, investment counselor or banker, who
- 72 advises any person to make a contribution to a charitable
- organization, shall be considered, as the result of such 73 advice, to be a professional fund-raising counsel or a
- 74 professional solicitor. 75
- "Commission" means the commission on charitable 76
- 77 organizations herein created.

Commission on charitable organizations; powers **§29-19-3.** and duties.

- 1 The commission on charitable organizations, herein
- referred to as the "commission," consists of seven members,
- including the secretary of state or his designate, who shall

- be the chairman, the attorney general or his designate, the
 commissioner of welfare or his designate, the director of the
 state department of health or his designate, and three
- 7 members to be appointed by the governor who shall serve at 8 his will and pleasure.
- 9 (b) The commission shall serve as body advisory to the
 10 secretary of state and, as such, shall have the following
 11 powers and duties:
 12 (1) To hold hearings and make adjudications as
 - (1) To hold hearings and make adjudications as provided in section nine and section fifteen of this article;
- 14 (2) To advise and make recommendations to the 15 secretary of state on policies and practices to effect the 16 purposes of this article;
- 17 (3) To request that the attorney general, and, when 18 appropriate, the prosecuting attorney of any county, take 19 action to enforce this article or protect the public from any 20 fraudulent scheme or criminal act;
- 21 (4) To meet at the request of the secretary of state or 22 pursuant to regulations promulgated by him. Minutes of 23 each meeting shall be public records and filed with the 24 secretary of state.
- (c) The secretary of state shall administer this article,
 prescribe forms for registration or other purposes, and
 promulgate rules and regulations in furtherance of this
 article in accordance with the provisions of chapter twentynine-a of this code.

§29-19-5. Registration of charitable organizations; fee.

- 1 (a) Every charitable organization which intends to solicit contributions within this state or to have funds solicited on its behalf shall, prior to any solicitation, file a registration statement with the secretary of state upon forms prescribed by him, which shall be good for one full year and which shall be refiled in the next and each following year in which such charitable organization is engaged in solicitation activities. It shall be the duty of the president, chairman or principal officer of such charitable organization to file the statements required under this article. Such statements shall be sworn to and shall contain the following information:
- 13 (1) The name of the organization and the purpose for 14 which it was organized;

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- 15 The principal address of the organization and the 16 address of any offices in this state. If the organization does 17 not maintain an office, the name and address of the person 18 having custody of its financial records;
 - The names and addresses of any chapters, branches or affiliates in this state;
- 21The place where and the date when the organization 22 was legally established, the form of its organization;
 - (5) The names and addresses of the officers, directors, trustees and the principal salaried executive staff officer;
 - A copy of a balance sheet and income and expense statement for the organization's immediately preceding fiscal year, or a copy of a financial statement covering, in a consolidated report, complete information as to all the preceding year's fund-raising activities of the charitable organization, showing kind and amount of funds raised, costs and expenses incidental thereto, and allocation or disbursement of funds raised including the amounts raised in the state and the percentage of that amount that remains in the state: Provided, That for organizations raising more than fifty thousand dollars per year in contributions, the balance sheet and income and expense statement, or financial statement provided shall be audited by an independent public accountant.
 - (7) A copy of any determination of the organization's tax-exempt status under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code and a copy of the last filed Internal Revenue Service form 990 and Schedule A for every charitable organization and any parent organization.
- (8) Whether the organization intends to solicit 44 45 contributions from the public directly or have such done on 46 its behalf by others;
 - (9) Whether the organization is authorized by any other governmental authority to solicit contributions and whether it is or has ever been enjoined by any court from soliciting contributions;
- 51 (10) The general purpose or purposes for which the 52 contributions to be solicited shall be used;
- 53 (11) The name or names under which it intends to solicit 54 contributions:
- 55 The names of the individuals or officers of the organization who will have final responsibility for the 56

- 57 custody of the contributions; and
- 58 (13) The names of the individuals or officers of the 59 organization responsible for the final distribution of the 60 contributions.
- 61 (b) Each chapter, branch or affiliate, except an 62 independent member agency of a federated fund-raising organization, may separately report the information 63 required by this subsection, or report the information to its 64 parent organization which shall then furnish such 65 66 information as to its West Virginia affiliates, chapters and branches in a consolidated form to the secretary of state. An 67 68 independent member agency of a federated fund-raising organization, as hereinbefore defined, shall comply with 69 70 the provisions of this article independently, unless 71 specifically exempted from doing so.
- 72 (c) The registration forms and any other documents 73 prescribed by the secretary of state shall be signed by an 74 authorized officer or by an independent public accountant 75 and by the chief fiscal officer of the charitable organization 76 and shall be verified under oath.
- 77 (d) Every charitable organization which submits an independent registration to the secretary of state shall pay 78 an annual registration fee of ten dollars; a parent 79 80 organization filing on behalf of one or more chapters, branches or affiliates and a federated fund-raising 81 organization filing on behalf of its member agencies shall 82 pay a single annual registration fee for itself and such 83 chapters, branches, affiliates or member agencies included 84 in the registration statement.

§29-19-6. Certain persons and organizations exempt from registration.

- 1 (a) The following charitable organizations shall not be 2 required to file an annual registration statement with the 3 secretary of state:
- 4 (1) Educational institutions, the curriculums of which 5 in whole or in part are registered or approved by the state 6 board of education, either directly or by acceptance of 7 accreditation by an accrediting body recognized by the 8 state board of education:
- 9 (2) Persons requesting contributions for the relief of any 10 individual specified by name at the time of the solicitation

- 11 when all of the contributions collected without any
- 12 deductions whatsoever are turned over to the named

- 13 beneficiary for his use;
- 14 (3) Charitable organizations which do not intend to
- 15 solicit and receive and do not actually raise or receive
- 16 contributions from the public in excess of seven thousand
- 17 five hundred dollars during a calendar year or do not
- 18 receive contributions from more than ten persons during a
- 19 calendar year, if all of their functions, including fund-20 raising activities, are carried on by persons who are unpaid
- 21 for their services and if no part of their assets or income
- 22 inures to the benefit of or is paid to any officer or member.
- 23 Charitable organizations which do not intent to solicit and
- 24 receive in excess of seven thousand five hundred dollars.
- 25 but do receive in excess of that amount from the public,
- 26 shall file the annual registration statement within thirty
- 27 days after contributions in excess of seven thousand five
- 28 hundred dollars.
- 29 (4) Hospitals which are nonprofit and charitable;
- 30 (5) Organizations which solicit only within the
- 31 membership of the organization by the members thereof:
- 32 Provided, That the term "membership" shall not include
- those persons who are granted a membership upon makinga contribution as the result of solicitation; or
- 35 (6) A local post, camp, chapter or similarly designated
- 36 element or a county unit of such elements of a bona fide
- 37 veterans' organization which issues charters to such local
- 38 elements throughout this state, a bona fide organization of
- 39 volunteer firemen, a bona fide ambulance association or
- 40 bona fide rescue squad association or a bona fide auxiliary
- 41 or affiliate of any such organization, provided all its fund-
- 42 raising activities are carried on by members of such an
- 43 organization or an affiliate thereof, and such members 44 receive no compensation directly or indirectly therefor.
- 45 (b) Any charitable organization claiming to be exempt
- 46 from the registration provisions of this act and which is
- 47 about to or does solicit charitable contributions shall
- 48 submit, annually, to the secretary of state on forms to be 49 prescribed by him the name, address and purpose of the
- 50 organization and a statement setting forth the reason for
- 51 the claim for exemption. If exempted, the secretary of state
- 52 shall issue, annually, a letter of exemption which may be

53 exhibited to the public. No registration fee shall be required54 of any exempt organization.

§29-19-7. Filing of solicitation contracts.

- (a) Every written contract or agreement between
 professional fund-raising counsel and a charitable
 organization shall be filed with the secretary of state within
 ten days after such contract or agreement is concluded.
- 5 (b) Every written contract or agreement between a 6 professional solicitor and a charitable organization shall be 7 filed with the secretary of state within ten days after such 8 agreement is concluded. In the absence of a written contract 9 or agreement between a professional solicitor and a 10 charitable organization, a written statement of the nature 11 of the arrangement to prevail in lieu thereof shall be filed.
- 12 Each statement must clearly provide the amount, 13 percentage or other method of compensation to be received 14 by the professional solicitor or professional fund-raising counsel as a result of the contract or arrangement. If it does 15 16 not so provide, the secretary of state shall disapprove the 17 contract or arrangement within ten days after its filing. No registered charitable organization or professional solicitor 18 shall carry out or execute a disapproved contract or 19 arrangement or perform services, or receive or make 20 21 payments, pursuant to a disapproved contract or arrangement. Any party to a disapproved contract or 22 arrangement shall, upon written request made within thirty 23 days of disapproval, be given a hearing before the 24 commission within thirty days after such request is filed. 25
- (d) For purposes of this section, the total moneys, funds,
 pledges or other property raised or received shall not
 include the actual cost to the charitable organization or
 professional solicitor of goods sold or services provided to
 the public in connection with the soliciting of
 contributions.

§29-19-9. Registration of professional fund-raising counsel and professional solicitor; bonds; records; books.

- 1 (a) No person may act as a professional fund-raising
- 2 counsel or professional solicitor for a charitable 3 organization subject to the provisions of this article unless
- 3 organization subject to the provisions of this article, unless
- 4 he has first registered with the secretary of state.

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5 Applications for such registration shall be in writing under oath or affirmation in the form prescribed by the secretary of state and contain such information as he may require. 8 The application for registration by professional fundraising counsel or professional solicitor shall be accompanied by an annual fee in the sum of fifty dollars. A 10 11 partnership or corporation, which is a professional fund-12 raising counsel or professional solicitor, may register for and pay a single fee on behalf of all its members, officers, 13 agents and employees. However, the names and addresses 14 of all officers, agents and employees of professional fund-15 raising counsel and all professional solicitors, their officers, 16 agents, servants or employees employed to work under the 17 direction of a professional solicitor must be listed in the 18 19 application.

- (b) The applicant shall, at the time of the making of an application, file with and have approved by the secretary of state a bond in which the applicant shall be the principal obligor in the sum of ten thousand dollars and which shall have one or more sureties satisfactory to the secretary of state, whose liability in the aggregate as such sureties will at least equal the said sum and maintain said bond in effect so long as a registration is in effect. The bond shall run to the state for the use of the secretary of state and any person who may have a cause of action against the obligor of said bonds for any losses resulting from malfeasance, nonfeasance or misfeasance in the conduct of solicitation activities. A partnership or corporation which is a professional fundraising counsel or professional solicitor may file a consolidated bond on behalf of all its members, officers and employees.
- (c) Each registration shall be valid throughout the state for a period of one year and may be renewed for additional one-year periods upon written application under oath in the form prescribed by the secretary of state and the payment of the fee prescribed herein.
- (d) The secretary of state or his designate shall examine each application, and if he finds it to be in conformity with the requirements of this article and all relevant rules and regulations and the registrant has complied with the requirements of this article and all relevant rules and 46 regulations, he shall approve the registration. Any

- applicant who is denied approved registration may, within 47
- fifteen days from the date of notification of such denial, 48
- request, in writing, a hearing before the commission, which 49
- hearing shall be held within fifteen days from the date of the 50
- 51 request.

§29-19-11. Records to be kept by charitable organizations, professional fund-raising counsel and professional solicitors.

- Every charitable organization subject to the provisions of 1
- this article shall, in accordance with the rules and
- regulations prescribed by the secretary of state, keep true
- fiscal records as to its activities in this state as may be
- covered by this article in such form as will enable it
- accurately to provide the information required by this 6
- article. Upon demand, such records shall be made available 7
- to the secretary of state, the commission or the attorney
- general for inspection. Such records shall be retained for a
- period of at least three years after the end of the period of 10
- registration to which they relate.

§29-19-13. Prohibited acts.

- (a) No charitable organization, professional fund-
- raising counsel or professional solicitor subject to the provisions of this article who is required to register with the
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- secretary of state pursuant to the provisions of this article
- whose registration has been cancelled, suspended, or 5
- 6 refused may solicit contributions from the public.
- (b) No charitable organization, professional fundraising counsel or professional solicitor subject to the
- provisions of this article may use or exploit the fact of 9 10 registration so as to lead the public to believe that such
- registration in any manner constitutes an endorsement or 11
- approval by the state. The use of the following statement 12
- shall not be deemed a prohibited exploitation: Registered 13
- with the secretary of state as required by law. Registration 14
- 15
- does not imply endorsement of a public solicitation for contributions. 16
- 17 (c) No person may, in connection with the solicitation of
- 18 contributions for or the sale of goods or services of a person
- other than a charitable organization, misrepresent to or 19
- mislead anyone by any manner, means, practice or device

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whatsoever, to believe that the person on whose behalf such solicitation or sale is being conducted is a charitable 23organization or that the proceeds of such solicitation or sale will be used for charitable purposes, if such is not the fact.

- (d) No person may in connection with the solicitation of 25 contributions or the sale of goods or services for charitable 26 27 purposes represent to or lead anyone by any manner, means, practice or device whatsoever, to believe that any other 28 29 person sponsors or endorsers such solicitation of contributions, sale of goods or services for charitable 30 31 purposes or approves of such charitable purposes of a 32 charitable organization connected therewith when such 33 other person has not given consent to the use of his name for these purposes: Provided, That any member of the board of 34 directors or trustees of a charitable organization or any 35 other person who has agreed either to serve or to participate 36 in any voluntary capacity in the campaign shall be deemed 37 38 thereby to have given his consent to the use of his name in 39 said campaign.
 - (e) No person may make any representation that he is soliciting contributions for or on behalf of a charitable organization or shall use or display any emblem, device or printed matter belonging to or associated with a charitable organization for the purpose of soliciting or inducing contributions from the public without first being authorized to do so by the charitable organization.
- (f) No professional solicitor may solicit in the name of or 47 48 on behalf of any charitable organization unless such 49 solicitor:
 - Has obtained the written authorization of two (1)officers of such organization, a copy of which shall be filed with the secretary of state. Such written authorization shall bear the signature of the solicitor and shall expressly state on its face the period for which it is valid, which shall not exceed one year from the date issued; and
- Carries such authorization on his person when 56 57 making solicitations and exhibits the same on request to persons solicited or police officers or agents of the secretary 58 of state. 59

§29-19-15. Enforcement and penalties.

1 (a) If any charitable organization, professional fundraising counsel or professional solicitor fails to file any

 3 registration application or statement, report or other information required to be filed by the secretary of state 4 under this article, or otherwise violates the provisions of 6 this act, the secretary of state shall notify the delinquent 7 charitable organization, professional fund-raising counsel 8 or professional solicitor by mailing a notice by registered or 9 certified mail, with return receipt requested, to its or his last-known address. If the required registration application 10 11 or statement, annual report or other information is not filed 12or if the existing violation is not discontinued within two 13 weeks after the formal notification or receipt of such notice. 14 the secretary of state may cancel, suspend or refuse to 15 accept the registration of such delinquent charitable 16 organization, professional fund-raising counsel or 17 professional solicitor.

- 18 (b) The secretary of state, upon his own motion, upon 19 request of the commission, or upon complaint of any person, 20 may, if he finds reasonable ground to suspect a violation, 21investigate any charitable organization, professional fund-22raising counsel or professional solicitor to determine 23whether such charitable organization, professional fund-24 raising counsel or professional solicitor has violated the provisions of this article or has filed any application or 2526 other information required under this article which 27contains false or misleading statements. If the commission 28 finds that any application or other information contains 29false or misleading statements, or that a registrant under 30 this article has violated the provisions thereof, it may recommend to the secretary of state that the registration be 31 32suspended or canceled and the secretary of state may so 33 order.
- (c) The registration of any charitable organization,
 professional fund-raising counsel or professional solicitor,
 which or who knowingly makes a false or misleading
 statement in any registration application or statement,
 report or other information required to be filed by the
 secretary of state or this article, shall be revoked.
- (d) All administrative proceedings under this article,
 including the promulgation of rules and regulations, shall
 be conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter
 twenty-nine-a of this code and all commission
 adjudications shall be subject to review and appeal as
 provided therein.

In addition to the foregoing, any person who 46 47 willfully and knowingly violates any provisions of this 48 article, or who shall willfully and knowingly give false or 49 incorrect information to the secretary of state in filing 50 statements or reports required by this article, whether such 51 report or statement is verified or not, shall be guilty of a 52 misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined 53 upon first conviction thereof in an amount not less than one 54 hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or be 55 imprisoned in the county jail for not more than six months, 56 or be both fined and imprisoned, and for the second and any 57 subsequent offense to pay a fine of not less than five 58 hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or be 59 imprisoned for not more than one year, or be both fined and 60

imprisoned.

61 (f) Whenever the attorney general or any prosecuting 62 attorney has reason to believe that any charitable 63 organization, professional fund-raising counsel or 64 professional solicitor is operating in violation of the provisions of this article, or has knowingly and willfully 65 66 made any false statement in any registration application or 67 statement, report or other information required to be filed 68 by this article, or whenever a charitable organization, 69 professional fund-raising counsel or professional solicitor 70 has failed to file a registration statement required by this article, or whenever there is employed or is about to be 71 72 employed in any solicitation or collection of contributions 73 for a charitable organization any device, scheme or artifice to defraud or to obtain money or property by means of any 74 75 false pretense, representation or promise, or whenever the 76 officers or representatives of any charitable organization, 77 professional fund-raising counsel or professional solicitor 78 have refused or failed after notice to produce any records of 79 such organization, or whenever the funds raised by 80 solicitation activities are not devoted or will not be devoted to the charitable purposes of the charitable organization, in 81 addition to all other actions authorized by law, the attorney 82 83 general or prosecuting attorney may bring an action in the name of the state against such charitable organization and 84 85 its officers, such professional fund-raising counsel or professional solicitor or any other person who has violated 86 this article or who has participated or is about to 87 88 participate in any solicitation or collection by employing

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any device, scheme, artifice, false representation or promise, to defraud or obtain money or other property, to enjoin such charitable organization or professional fund-raising counsel or professional solicitor or other person from continuing such violation, solicitation or collection, or from engaging therein or from doing any acts in furtherance thereof and for such other relief as the court deems appropriate.

organization, professional fund-raising counsel or professional solicitor who willfully and knowingly violates any provisions of this article by employing any device, scheme, artifice, false representation or promise with intent to defraud or obtain money or other property shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, for a first offense, shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or be confined in the county jail not more than six months, or be both fined and imprisoned; and for a second and any subsequent offense, shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or confined in the county jail not more than one year, or be both fined and imprisoned.

At any proceeding under this section, the court shall also determine whether it is possible to return to the contributors the contributions which were thereby obtained.

If the court finds that the said contributions are readily returnable to the original contributors, it may order the money to be placed in the custody and control of a general receiver, appointed pursuant to the provisions of article six, chapter fifty-one of this code, who shall be responsible for its proper disbursement to such contributors.

If the court finds that: (1) It is impossible to obtain the names of over one half the persons who were solicited and in violation of this article, or (2) if the majority of individual contributions was of an amount less than five dollars, or (3) if the cost to the state of returning these contributions is equal to or more than the total sum to be refunded, the court shall order the money to be placed in the custody and control of a general receiver appointed pursuant to the provisions of article six, chapter fifty-one of this code. The general receiver shall maintain this money pursuant to the provisions of article eight, chapter thirty six of this code.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the

foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.
Marsell addine
Chairman Senate Committee
Chairman/House Committee
Originated in the Senate.
In effect ninety days from passage.
Sedd C Wills Clerk of the Senate
Clerk of the House of Delegates
Dan Tonhowil
Jaseph Filler of Speaker House of Delegates
The within Apple 2000 this the
day of May 1985. Austa Ohary
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE

GOVERNOR

Date .

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