

that accept it, it is typically lengthier than any individual state's registration form. Nonetheless, entities that solicit nationally should definitely consider using it to avoid filling out thirty-six different forms.<sup>17</sup> The URS can be downloaded from the URS website, [www.multistatefiling.org](http://www.multistatefiling.org),

### B. Comprehensive Resources

If you need information about registration requirements for a particular state, you should consult one or more of the following resources:

- The NASCO website, [www.nasconet.org](http://www.nasconet.org), has a link to a very helpful site that details all the various state registration requirements and provides direct links to most states that have websites.
- The URS website, [www.multistatefiling.org](http://www.multistatefiling.org), provides a concise overview of the various state requirements.
- Hardbound publications that provide state-specific information, such as *The Law of Fund-Raising*<sup>18</sup> and *Fundraising Regulation: A State by State Handbook of Forms, Requirements, and Procedures*.<sup>19</sup>

You should consult one or more of these resources for state-specific questions. Since Pennsylvania's Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act<sup>20</sup> is similar to the laws of many other states, the next several sections of these materials will give a brief overview of its basic requirements.

### C. The Pennsylvania Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act

Pennsylvania, like most states, generally requires organizations to register with the state before they solicit charitable contributions in the state, while it specifically excludes or exempts certain types of organizations. The statute provides the following definition of "charitable organization":

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Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. While Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, and Oregon accept the URS in place of their own registration forms for initial registrations, they require their own state-specific forms for renewal registrations.

<sup>17</sup> A handful of states and the District of Columbia that accept the URS also require one or more state-specific supplementary forms. These states are: Arkansas, California, Georgia, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

<sup>18</sup> Bruce R. Hopkins, *The Law of Fund-Raising*, 3rd ed. (John Wiley & Sons, 2002).

<sup>19</sup> Seth Perlman, *Fundraising Regulation: A State by State Handbook of Forms, Requirements, and Procedures* (John Wiley & Sons Canada, 1996).

<sup>20</sup> 10 Pa. Cons. Stat. §162.1-162.24 (1990).