As Reported by Senate Judiciary Committee

132nd General Assembly

Regular Session 2017-2018

Am. H. B. No. 223

Representative Dever

Cosponsors: Representatives Anielski, Antonio, Blessing, Boggs, Lepore-Hagan, Rogers, Sweeney

Senators Coley, Eklund, Bacon

A BILL

То	amend sections 2109.41, 2323.58, 2323.581,	1
	2323.582, 2323.583, 2323.584, 2323.585,	2
	2323.586, and 2323.587 of the Revised Code	3
	relative to transfers of structured settlement	4
	payment rights and relative to the placement of	5
	fiduciary funds in interest on lawyer's trust	6
	accounts.	7

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 2109.41, 2323.58, 2323.581,	8
2323.582, 2323.583, 2323.584, 2323.585, 2323.586, and 2323.587	9
of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows:	10
Sec. 2109.41. (A) Immediately after appointment and	11
throughout the administration of a trust, but subject to section	12
2109.372 of the Revised Code and except as provided in division	13
(C) of this section, every fiduciary, pending payment of current	14
obligations of the fiduciary's trust, distribution, or	15
investment pursuant to law, shall deposit all funds received by	16
the fiduciary in the fiduciary's name as such fiduciary in one	17

or more depositaries. Each depositary shall be a bank, savings	18
bank, savings and loan association, or credit union located in	19
this state. A corporate fiduciary, authorized to receive	20
deposits of fiduciaries, may be the depository of funds held by	21
it as fiduciary. All deposits made pursuant to <u>division (A) of</u>	22
this section shall be in such class of account as will be most	23
advantageous to the trust, and each depositary shall pay	24
interest at the highest rate customarily paid to its patrons on	25
deposits in accounts of the same class.	26
(B) The placing of funds in such depositaries under the	27
joint control of the fiduciary and a surety on the bond of the	28
fiduciary shall not increase the liability of the fiduciary.	29
(C) A fiduciary may transfer funds received by the	30
fiduciary in the fiduciary's name as such fiduciary to the	31
fiduciary's attorney for deposit in an interest on lawyer's	32
trust account maintained by the attorney if both of the	33
following conditions are satisfied:	34
(1) The attorney, in consultation with the fiduciary, has	35
determined that the funds are nominal in amount and will be held	36
in the interest on lawyer's trust account for a short period of	37
time.	38
(2) The probate court, upon petition by the fiduciary, has	39
approved the deposit.	40
Sec. 2323.58. As used in this section and sections	41
2323.581 to 2323.587 of the Revised Code:	42
(A) "Annuity issuer" means an insurer that has issued an	43
insurance <u>a</u> contract that is used to fund periodic payments	44
under a structured settlement.	45
(B)—"Applicable law_"Assignee" means any of the following,-	46

as applicable in interpreting the terms of a party acquiring or	47
proposing to acquire structured settlement agreement:	48
(1) The laws of the United States;	49
(2) The laws of this state, including principles of equity	50
that are applied in the courts of this state;	51
(3) The laws of any other jurisdiction if any of the	52
following applies:	53
(a) The laws of that other jurisdiction govern the	54
structured settlement.	55
(b) A court or a responsible administrative authority	56
approved the structured settlement agreement under the laws of	57
that other jurisdiction.	58
(c) The transfer of payments under the structured-	59
settlement is subject to the laws of that other jurisdiction	60
payment rights from a transferee of those rights.	61
(C) "Dependent" <u>means includes</u> a spouse of a payee, a	62
minor child of a payee, or <u>and any</u> other member of the family of	63
a payee or other person <u>for </u> whom , by law or by court order or	64
decree, the payee is legally obligated to <u>provide</u> support,	65
including alimony.	66
(D) "Discounted present value" means the fair present	67
value of the future payments under a structured settlement that	68
is determined by discounting those payments to the present,	69
using the most recently published applicable federal rate for	70
determining the present value of an annuity $_{m L}$ as issued by the	71
United States internal revenue service.	72
(E) <u>"Gross advance amount" means the sum payable to the</u>	73
payee or for the payee's account as consideration for a transfer	74

of structured settlement payment rights before any reductions	75
for transfer expenses or other deductions to be made from such	76
consideration.	77
(F) "Independent professional advice" means the advice of	78
an attorney, a certified public accountant, an actuary, or any	79
other licensed professional adviser if all of the following	80
apply:	81
(1) The payee has engaged the services of the licensed	82
professional adviser to render advice concerning the legal and	83
other implications of a transfer of structured settlement	84
payment rights.	85
(2) The licensed professional adviser has signed a	86
statement to the effect that the licensed professional adviser-	87
rendered advice to the payee concerning the legal and other	88
implications of a transfer of structured settlement payment	89
rights.	90
(3) The licensed professional adviser is not affiliated in-	91
any manner with, referred by, or compensated in any manner by-	92
the transferee of the structured settlement payment rights.	93
(4) The compensation of the licensed professional adviser	94
is not affected by whether or not a transfer of structured-	95
settlement payment rights occurs.	96
(F) (G) "Interested party" includes the payee means, with	97
respect to a structured settlement, the payee, any beneficiary	98
irrevocably designated under the annuity contract to receive	99
payments following the payee's death, the annuity issuer, the	100
structured settlement $rac{agreement}{}$ obligor, and any other party <u>to</u>	101
the structured settlement that has continuing rights or	102
obligations to receive or make payments under the structured	103

settlement-agreement. (G) (H) "Net advance amount" means the gross advance amount less the aggregate amount of the actual and estimated transfer expenses required to be disclosed under division (E) of section 2323.582 of the Revised Code. (I) "Payee" means an individual who is receiving periodic

payments under a structured settlement agreement that are 110 excludable from the individual's gross income under federal 111 income taxation laws applicable to that individual and who 112 proposes to make a transfer of the rights to receive those 113 periodic payments. 114

(H)—(J) "Periodic payments" includes both continuing monthly or other periodic payments and scheduled future lump-sum payments under a structured settlement.

(I) (K) "Qualified assignment agreement" means an118agreement that provides for a qualified assignment, as defined119in section 130 of the "Internal Revenue Code of 1986," 100 Stat.1202085, 26 U.S.C.A. 130(c), as amended, through an assignment of121the liability under a structured settlement agreement to make122periodic payments as damages, on account of personal injury or123sickness.124

(J) "Responsible administrative authority" means any125government authority of another state vested by the law of that126state with the original exclusive jurisdiction over the settled127claim resolved by a structured settlement.128

(K) "Settled claim" means the original tort claim resolved129by a structured settlement.130

(L) "Structured settlement" means an arrangement for
periodic payments of damages for injury to a person personal
132

104

105

108

109

115

116

117

injuries or sickness that is established by a settlement or a 133 court judgment in resolution of a tort claim. 134 (M) "Structured settlement agreement" means an agreement, 135 judgment, stipulation, or release that embodies the terms of a 136 structured settlement, including the rights of a payee to 137 receive periodic payments. 138 (N) "Structured settlement obligor" means the party that 139 has the obligation to make continuing periodic payments to the 140 payee under a structured settlement agreement or a qualified 141 142 assignment agreement. (0) "Structured settlement payment rights" means the 143 rights under a structured settlement agreement to receive 144 periodic payments from a structured settlement obligor or an 145 annuity issuer if either of the following applies: 146 (1) The payee, the structured settlement obligor, or the 147 annuity issuer with respect to the structured settlement 148 agreement is a resident of this state. 149 (2) The structured settlement agreement was approved by a 150 court in this state. 151 (P) "Terms of a structured settlement" includes the terms 152 of a structured settlement agreement, an insurance the annuity 153 contract, a qualified assignment agreement, and any order or 154 approval by a court, a responsible administrative authority, or 155 other government authority authorizing or approving the 156 structured settlement. 157 (Q) "Transfer" means a sale, assignment, pledge, 158 hypothecation, or any other form of alienation or encumbrance of 159 structured settlement payment rights made by a payee for 160 consideration. "Transfer" does not include the creation or 161

perfection of a security interest in structured settlement	162
payment rights under a blanket security agreement entered into	163
with an insured depository institution, in the absence of any	164
action to redirect the structured settlement payments to that	165
institution, or an agent or successor in interest thereof, or	166
otherwise to enforce the blanket security interest against the	167
structured settlement payment rights.	168
(R) "Transfer agreement" means an agreement that provides	169
for the transfer of structured settlement payment rights from a	170
payee to a transferee.	171
(S) _ "Transfer expense" means any expense of a transfer_	172
that is required under the transfer agreement to be paid by the	173
payee or deducted from the gross advance amount, including but	174
not limited to, court filing fees, attorneys' fees, escrow fees,	175
lien recordation fees, judgment and lien search fees, finder's	176
fees, commissions, and other payments to a broker or other	177
intermediary. "Transfer expense" does not include pre-existing	178
obligations of the payee payable for the payee's account from	179
the proceeds of a transfer.	180
(T) "Transferee" means a party acquiring or proposing to	181
acquire structured settlement payment rights through a transfer	182
of those rights.	183
Sec. 2323.581. No direct or indirect transfer of	184
structured settlement payment rights shall be effective, and no	185
structured settlement obligor or annuity issuer shall be	186
required to make any payment directly or indirectly to a	187
transferee or assignee of structured settlement payment rights,	188
unless the transferee has provided the payee and other	189
interested parties with the disclosures required by section-	190
2323.582 of the Revised Code and the transfer has been approved	191

Page 7

in advance in a final order of a court of competent jurisdiction	192
in accordance with sections 2323.583 and 2323.584 of the Revised	193
Code based on express findings by the court of all of the	194
following:	195
(A) The transfer is in the best interest of the payee,	196
taking into account the welfare and support of the payee's	197
dependents.	198
(B) The payee has been advised in writing by the	199
transferee to seek independent professional advice regarding the	200
transfer and has either received that advice or knowingly waived	201
in writing the opportunity to seek and receive that advice.	202
(C) The transfer does not contravene any applicable	203
statute or order of any court or other government authority.	204
Sec. 2323.582. Not less than ten days prior to the date on	205
which a payee becomes obligated under <u>signs</u> a transfer	206
agreement, the transferee shall provide to the payee a <u>separate</u>	207
disclosure statement, in boldface type of the minimum size of	208
fourteen points, setting forth all of the following:	209
(A) The amounts and due dates of the structured settlement	210
payments that would be transferred under the transfer agreement;	211
(B) The aggregate amount of the payments described in	212
division (A) of this section;	213
(C) The discounted present value of the payments described	214
in division (A) of this section, which shall be identified as	215
the "calculation of current value of the transferred structured	216
settlement payments under federal standards for valuing	217
annuities," and the amount of the applicable federal rate used	218
in determining the discounted present value;	219

(D) The gross <u>advance</u> amount payable to the payee in	220
exchange for or as consideration for the transfer of the	221
structured settlement payments described in division (A) of this	222
section;	223
(E) An itemized listing of all brokers' commissions,	224
service charges, application fees, processing fees, closing	225
costs, filing fees, administrative fees, legal fees, notary-	226
fees, and other commissions, fees, costs, expenses, and charges	227
payable by the payee or deductible from the gross amount	228
otherwise payable to the payee as described in division (D) of	229
this section applicable transfer expenses, other than attorneys'	230
fees and related disbursements payable in connection with the	231
transferee's application for approval of the transfer, and the	232
transferee's best estimate of the amount of any such fees and	233
disbursements;	234
(F) The net <u>advance</u> amount payable to the payee after	235
deduction from the gross amount payable to the payee as	236
described in division (D) of this section of all commissions,	237
fees, costs, expenses, and charges described in division (E) of	238
this section;	220
	239
(G) The quotient, expressed as a percentage, obtained by	239
(G) The quotient, expressed as a percentage, obtained by dividing the net amount payable to the payee as described in	
	240
dividing the net amount payable to the payee as described in	240 241
dividing the net amount payable to the payee as described in- division (F) of this section by the discounted present value of-	240 241 242
dividing the net amount payable to the payee as described in division (F) of this section by the discounted present value of the payments described in division (C) of this section_effective_	240 241 242 243
dividing the net amount payable to the payee as described in division (F) of this section by the discounted present value of the payments described in division (C) of this section effective annual interest rate, which shall be disclosed as follows: "On	240 241 242 243 244
dividing the net amount payable to the payee as described in division (F) of this section by the discounted present value of the payments described in division (C) of this section <u>effective</u> annual interest rate, which shall be disclosed as follows: "On the basis of the net amount that you will receive from us and	240 241 242 243 244 245
dividing the net amount payable to the payee as described in- division (F) of this section by the discounted present value of the payments described in division (C) of this section_effective annual interest rate, which shall be disclosed as follows: "On the basis of the net amount that you will receive from us and the amounts and timing of the structured settlement payments	240 241 242 243 244 245 246

(H) The <u>aggregate</u> amount of any penalty and the aggregate 249

amount of any or liquidated damages, including penalties, 250 payable by the payee in the event of any breach of the transfer 251 agreement by the payee; 252 (I) That the payee has the right to cancel the transfer 253 agreement, without penalty or further obligation, not later than 254 the third business day after the date the agreement is signed by 255 the payee; 256 (J) That the payee has the right to seek and receive 257 independent professional advice regarding the proposed transfer 258 and should consider doing so before agreeing to transfer any 259 structured settlement payment rights. 260 Sec. 2323.583. A court of competent jurisdiction may 261 approve Following a transfer of structured settlement payment 262 rights only in a final order that is based on the express-263 findings of the court, and the express findings shall include 264 pursuant to sections 2323.58 to 2323.585 of the Revised Code, 265 all of the following apply: 266 267 (A) The transferee has provided to the payee a disclosure statement that complies with section 2323.582 of the Revised 268 Code, and the payee has confirmed the payee's receipt of the 269 disclosure statement, as evidenced by the payee's notarized 270 271 signature on a copy of the disclosure statement_structured_ settlement obligor and the annuity issuer may rely on the court 272 order approving the transfer in redirecting periodic payments to 273 an assignee or transferee in accordance with the order approving 274 the transfer and shall, as to all parties except the transferee 275 or an assignee designated by the transferee, be discharged and 276 released from any and all liability for the redirected payments. 277 That discharge and release shall not be affected by the failure 278

of any party to the transfer to comply with sections 2323.58 to

2323.585 of the Revised Code or with the court order approving	280
the transfer.	281
(B) (1) Except as provided in division (B) (2) of this	282
section, the payee has established that the transfer is fair and	283
reasonable and in the best interests of the payee and the	284
payee's dependents.	285
(2) If, on the effective date of the transfer agreement, a	286
federal hardship standard exists, the payee has established that	287
the transfer meets that hardship standard.	288
(C) The payee has received independent professional advice	289
regarding the legal and other implications of the transfer.	290
(D) If The transferee shall be liable to the structured	291
settlement obligor and the annuity issuer, as follows:	292
(1) For any taxes incurred by the structured settlement	293
obligor or annuity issuer as a consequence of the transfer, if	294
the transfer contravenes the terms of the structured settlement	295
involved, all of the following have been complied with:	296
(1) Each dependent whom the payee is legally obligated to	297
support by court order or decree, in a written approval and	298
waiver, approves the transfer and waives the right to require-	299
that the structured settlement payments be made to the payee in-	300
accordance with the terms of the structured settlement.;	301
(2) - Any court or responsible administrative authority that -	302
previously approved the structured settlement, other than the	303
court from which the approval of the transfer is sought under-	304
sections 2323.58 to 2323.585 of the Revised Code, has expressly-	305
approved the transfer in writing For any other liabilities or	306
costs, including reasonable costs and attorneys' fees, arising	307
from compliance by the structured settlement obligor or annuity_	308

issuer with the court order approving the transfer or from the failure of any party to the transfer to comply with sections 2323.58 to 2323.585 of the Revised Code.

(3) The transferee has provided to the court in which the312application for approval of the transfer was filed all of the313signed original copies of the approvals required under divisions314(D) (1) and (2) of this section.315

(4) The transferee has furnished each interested party316copies of the approvals required under divisions (D) (1) and (2)317of this section.318

(E) The transferee has given written notice of the	319
transferee's name, address, and taxpayer identification number-	320
to the annuity issuer and the structured settlement obligor and	321
has filed a copy of that notice with the court in which the	322
application for approval of the transfer was filed.	323

(F) The (C) Neither the annuity issuer nor the structured324settlement obligor may be required to divide any periodic325payment between the payee and any transferee or assignee or326between two or more transferees or assignees.327

(D) Any further transfer of structured settlement payment 328 rights by the payee may be made only if the transfer complies 329 with all of the requirements of sections 2323.58 to 2323.585 of 330 the Revised Code and does not contravene any applicable law. 331

Sec. 2323.584. (A) A person transferee shall file an332application under sections 2323.58 to 2323.585 of the Revised333Code for the approval in advance of a transfer of structured334settlement payment rights in the probate division of the court335of common pleas of the county in which the payee resides, except336that if the structured settlement agreement was approved by a337

309

310

court of common pleas or other Ohio state court, the application 338 shall be filed in the Ohio state court that approved the 339 structured settlement agreement. If the structured settlement-340 agreement was not approved by an Ohio court, a person shall file-341 an application under sections 2323.58 to 2323.585 of the Revised 342 343 Code for the approval in advance of a transfer of structured 344 settlement payment rights in the probate division of the court-345 of common pleas of the county in which the payee, the structured settlement obligor, or the annuity issuer resides. 346 347 (B) The following procedures shall apply to an application for the approval in advance by a court of a transfer of 348 structured settlement payment rights under division (A) of this 349 350 section: (1) Upon the filing of the application, the The court 351 shall set a date and time for hold a timely hearing on the 352 application and shall notify the transferee of the date, time, 353 and place of the hearing. The payee shall appear in person at 354 the hearing unless the court determines that good cause exists 355 to excuse the payee from appearing in person. 356 (2) Not less than twenty days prior to the date set by the 357 court for the hearing on an application filed pursuant to this 358 section, the transferee shall file with the court and shall 359 serve on the court or any responsible administrative authority 360 that previously approved the structured settlement, on all 361 interested parties, and on the annuity issuer and the structured 362 settlement obligor including a parent or other guardian or 363 authorized legal representative of any interested party who is 364 not legally competent, in the manner prescribed in the Rules of 365 Civil Procedure for the service of process, a notice of the 366 proposed transfer and the application for its approval in 367

advance. The notice shall include all of the following:	368
(a) A copy of the application;	369
(b) A copy of the transfer agreement;	370
(c) A copy of the disclosure statement provided by the	371
transferee pursuant to section 2323.582 of the Revised Code-and-	372
signed by the payee pursuant to division (A) of section 2323.583	373
of the Revised Code;	374
(d) The payee's name, age, and county of residence and the	375
number and ages of each of the payee's dependents;	376
(e) A summary of both of the following:	377
(i) Any prior transfers by the payee to the transferee or	378
an affiliate, or through the transferee or an affiliate to an	379
assignee, within the four years preceding the date of the	380
transfer agreement and any proposed transfers by the payee to	381
the transferee or an affiliate, or through the transferee or an	382
affiliate to an assignee, applications for approval of which	383
were denied within the two years preceding the date of the	384
transfer agreement;	385
(ii) Any prior transfers by the payee to any person or	386
entity other than the transferee or an affiliate, or an assignee	387
of the transferee or an affiliate, within the three years	388
preceding the date of the transfer agreement and any prior	389
proposed transfers by the payee to any person or entity other	390
than the transferee or an affiliate, or an assignee of a	391
transferee or affiliate, applications for approval of which were	392
denied within the one year preceding the date of the current	393
transfer agreement, to the extent that the transfers or proposed	394
transfers have been disclosed to the transferee by the payee in	395
writing or otherwise are actually known to the transferee.	396

(f) Notification of the date, time, and place of the	397
hearing on the application;	398
(c) (g) Notification that any interested party may	399
support, oppose, or otherwise respond to the application, either	400
in person or by counsel, by submitting to the court a written	401
response containing the interested party's support of,	402
opposition to, or comments on the application or by	403
participating in the hearing;	404
(f) (h) Notification of the manner of filing a written	405
response to the application and the time within which the	406
response is required to be filed, which time shall be not less	407
than fifteen days after the service of the transferee's notice,	408
in order for the court to consider it.	409
(3) Within fifteen days after receipt of the notice	410
described in division (B)(2) of this section, any interested	411
party who wishes to respond to the application shall file a	412
written response with the court personally or by certified mail,	413
return receipt requested.	414
(4) At the conclusion of the hearing on an application-	415
under this section, the court may grant or deny the approval of-	416
the transfer. The court shall enter its order accordingly. If	417
the court grants the approval of the transfer, it shall include-	418
in its order all of the express findings specified in section	419
2323.583 of the Revised Code. If the court denies the approval-	420
of the transfer, it shall include in its order the reasons for-	421
the denial.	422
(5) An order of the court made under division (B)(4) of	423
this section is a final and appealable order.	424
Sec. 2323.585. (A) No payee who proposes to make a	425

transfer of structured settlement payment rights shall incur any426penalty, forfeit any application fee or other payment, or427otherwise incur any liability to the proposed transferee or any428assignee based on a failure of the transfer to comply with any429of the requirements of sections 2323.581 to 2323.584 of the430Revised Code.431

(B) No provision of this section or section 2323.581, 432
2323.582, 2323.583, or 2323.584 of the Revised Code may be 433
waived by any payee. 434

(C) No provision of this section or section 2323.581, 435 2323.582, 2323.583, or 2323.584 of the Revised Code authorizes 436 any transfer of structured settlement payment rights in 437 contravention of applicable law or gives effect to implies that 438 any transfer of structured settlement payment rights that is 439 void under any applicable law under a transfer agreement that 440 was entered into prior to the effective date of this amendment 441 is valid or invalid. 442

(D) Any transfer agreement entered into on or after the effective date of this amendment by a payee who resides in this state shall provide that disputes under the transfer agreement, including any claim that the payee has breached the agreement, are to be determined in and under the laws of this state. No such transfer agreement shall authorize the transferee or any other party to confess judgment or consent to entry of judgment against the payee.

(E) No transfer of structured settlement payment rights451shall extend to any payments that are life-contingent unless,452prior to the date on which the payee signs the transfer453agreement, the transferee has established and has agreed to454maintain procedures reasonably satisfactory to the annuity455

443

444

445

446

447

448

449

issuer and the structured settlement obligor for both of the	456
following:	457
(1) Periodically confirming the payee's survival;	458
(2) Giving the annuity issuer and the structured	459
settlement obligor prompt written notice in the event of the	460
payee's death.	461
(F) If the payee cancels a transfer agreement, or if the	462
transfer agreement otherwise terminates, after an application	463
for approval of a transfer of structured settlement payment	464
rights has been filed and before it has been granted or denied,	465
the transferee shall promptly request dismissal of the	466
application.	467
Sec. 2323.586. The Compliance with section 2323.582 of the	468
Revised Code and the fulfillment of the conditions set forth in	469
section 2323.581 of the Revised Code shall be solely the	470
responsibility of the transferee in any transfer of structured	471
settlement payment rights, and neither the structured settlement	472
obligor and <u>nor</u>the annuity issuer under a transfer or transfer	473
agreement are immune from shall bear any responsibility for, or	474
any liability based upon any claim by the payee, or any party,	475
other than a transferee, claiming through the payee, as to any	476
structured settlement payment rights or periodic payments that	477
are the subject of the transfer or transfer agreement arising	478
from, noncompliance with the requirements or failure to fulfill	479
the conditions.	480
Sec. 2323.587. A violation of or failure to comply with	481
section 2323.581, 2323.582, 2323.583, 2323.584, 2323.585, or	482
2323.586 of the Revised Code is an unfair or deceptive act or	483
practice in violation of section 1345.02 of the Revised Code.	484

Section 2. That existing sections 2109.41, 2323.58,	485
2323.581, 2323.582, 2323.583, 2323.584, 2323.585, 2323.586, and	486
2323.587 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	487
Section 3. Sections 2323.58, 2323.581, 2323.582, 2323.583,	488

2323.584, 2323.585, 2323.586, and 2323.587 of the Revised Code,489as amended by this act, shall apply to a transfer of structured490settlement payment rights under any transfer agreement entered491into on or after the effective date of this act.492