

As Reported by the House Civil Justice Committee

132nd General Assembly

Regular Session

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Am. H. B. No. 223

Representative Dever

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 2323.58, 2323.581, 2323.582,  
2323.583, 2323.584, 2323.585, 2323.586, and  
2323.587 of the Revised Code relative to  
transfers of structured settlement payment  
rights.

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

**Section 1.** That sections 2323.58, 2323.581, 2323.582,  
2323.583, 2323.584, 2323.585, 2323.586, and 2323.587 of the  
Revised Code be amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 2323.58.** As used in this section and sections  
2323.581 to 2323.587 of the Revised Code:

(A) "Annuity issuer" means an insurer that has issued ~~an~~  
~~insurance~~ a contract that is used to fund periodic payments  
under a structured settlement.

(B) ~~"Applicable law~~ "Assignee" means ~~any of the following,~~  
~~as applicable in interpreting the terms of a~~ party acquiring or  
proposing to acquire structured settlement ~~agreement.~~

~~(1) The laws of the United States;~~

~~(2) The laws of this state, including principles of equity~~

~~that are applied in the courts of this state;~~ 19

~~(3) The laws of any other jurisdiction if any of the~~ 20  
~~following applies:~~ 21

~~(a) The laws of that other jurisdiction govern the~~ 22  
~~structured settlement.~~ 23

~~(b) A court or a responsible administrative authority~~ 24  
~~approved the structured settlement agreement under the laws of~~ 25  
~~that other jurisdiction.~~ 26

~~(c) The transfer of payments under the structured~~ 27  
~~settlement is subject to the laws of that other jurisdiction~~ 28  
~~payment rights from a transferee of those rights.~~ 29

(C) "Dependent" ~~means includes~~ a spouse of a payee, a 30  
minor child of a payee, ~~or and~~ any other member of the family of 31  
a payee or other person for whom, by law or by court order or 32  
~~decree,~~ the payee is legally obligated to provide support, 33  
including alimony. 34

(D) "Discounted present value" means the ~~fair~~ present 35  
value of ~~the~~ future payments ~~under a structured settlement that~~ 36  
~~is~~ determined by discounting those payments to the present, 37  
using the most recently published applicable federal rate for 38  
determining the present value of an annuity, as issued by the 39  
United States internal revenue service. 40

(E) "Gross advance amount" means the sum payable to the 41  
payee or for the payee's account as consideration for a transfer 42  
of structured settlement payment rights before any reductions 43  
for transfer expenses or other deductions to be made from such 44  
consideration. 45

(F) "Independent professional advice" means the advice of 46

an attorney, a certified public accountant, an actuary, or any 47  
other licensed professional adviser ~~if all of the following~~ 48  
~~apply:~~ 49

~~(1) The payee has engaged the services of the licensed~~ 50  
~~professional adviser to render advice concerning the legal and~~ 51  
~~other implications of a transfer of structured settlement~~ 52  
~~payment rights.~~ 53

~~(2) The licensed professional adviser has signed a~~ 54  
~~statement to the effect that the licensed professional adviser~~ 55  
~~rendered advice to the payee concerning the legal and other~~ 56  
~~implications of a transfer of structured settlement payment~~ 57  
~~rights.~~ 58

~~(3) The licensed professional adviser is not affiliated in~~ 59  
~~any manner with, referred by, or compensated in any manner by~~ 60  
~~the transferee of the structured settlement payment rights.~~ 61

~~(4) The compensation of the licensed professional adviser~~ 62  
~~is not affected by whether or not a transfer of structured~~ 63  
~~settlement payment rights occurs.~~ 64

~~(F)~~ (G) "Interested party" includes the payee means, with 65  
respect to a structured settlement, the payee, any beneficiary 66  
irrevocably designated under the annuity contract to receive 67  
payments following the payee's death, the annuity issuer, the 68  
structured settlement agreement obligor, and any other party to 69  
the structured settlement that has continuing rights or 70  
obligations to receive or make payments under the structured 71  
settlement agreement. 72

~~(G)~~ (H) "Net advance amount" means the gross advance 73  
amount less the aggregate amount of the actual and estimated 74  
transfer expenses required to be disclosed under division (E) of 75

section 2323.582 of the Revised Code. 76

(I) "Payee" means an individual who is receiving periodic 77  
payments under a structured settlement ~~agreement~~ that are 78  
excludable from the individual's gross income under federal 79  
income taxation laws applicable to that individual and who 80  
proposes to make a transfer of the rights to receive those 81  
periodic payments. 82

~~(H)~~ (J) "Periodic payments" includes both continuing 83  
monthly or other periodic payments and scheduled future lump-sum 84  
payments under a structured settlement. 85

~~(I)~~ (K) "Qualified assignment agreement" means an 86  
agreement that provides for a qualified assignment, as defined 87  
in section 130 of the "Internal Revenue Code of 1986," 100 Stat. 88  
2085, 26 U.S.C.A. 130(c), as amended, ~~through an assignment of~~ 89  
~~the liability under a structured settlement agreement to make~~ 90  
~~periodic payments as damages, on account of personal injury or~~ 91  
~~sickness.~~ 92

~~(J) "Responsible administrative authority" means any~~ 93  
~~government authority of another state vested by the law of that~~ 94  
~~state with the original exclusive jurisdiction over the settled~~ 95  
~~claim resolved by a structured settlement.~~ 96

~~(K) "Settled claim" means the original tort claim resolved~~ 97  
~~by a structured settlement.~~ 98

(L) "Structured settlement" means an arrangement for 99  
periodic payments of damages for injury to a person personal 100  
injuries or sickness that is established by a settlement or a 101  
court judgment in resolution of a tort claim. 102

(M) "Structured settlement agreement" means an agreement, 103  
judgment, stipulation, or release that embodies the terms of a 104

structured settlement, including the rights of a payee to 105  
receive periodic payments. 106

(N) "Structured settlement obligor" means the party that 107  
has the obligation to make continuing periodic payments to the 108  
payee under a structured settlement agreement or a qualified 109  
assignment agreement. 110

(O) "Structured settlement payment rights" means the 111  
rights under a structured settlement agreement to receive 112  
periodic payments from a structured settlement obligor or an 113  
annuity issuer if either of the following applies: 114

(1) ~~The payee, the structured settlement obligor, or the~~ 115  
~~annuity issuer with respect to the structured settlement~~ 116  
~~agreement~~ is a resident of this state. 117

(2) The structured settlement agreement was approved by a 118  
court in this state. 119

(P) "Terms of a structured settlement" includes the terms 120  
of a structured settlement agreement, ~~an insurance~~ the annuity 121  
contract, a qualified assignment agreement, and any order or 122  
approval by a court, ~~a responsible administrative authority,~~ or 123  
other government authority authorizing or approving the 124  
structured settlement. 125

(Q) "Transfer" means a sale, assignment, pledge, 126  
hypothecation, or any other form of alienation or encumbrance of 127  
structured settlement payment rights made by a payee for 128  
consideration. "Transfer" does not include the creation or 129  
perfection of a security interest in structured settlement 130  
payment rights under a blanket security agreement entered into 131  
with an insured depository institution, in the absence of any 132  
action to redirect the structured settlement payments to that 133

institution, or an agent or successor in interest thereof, or 134  
otherwise to enforce the blanket security interest against the 135  
structured settlement payment rights. 136

(R) "Transfer agreement" means an agreement that provides 137  
for the transfer of structured settlement payment rights from a 138  
payee to a transferee. 139

(S) "Transfer expense" means any expense of a transfer 140  
that is required under the transfer agreement to be paid by the 141  
payee or deducted from the gross advance amount, including but 142  
not limited to, court filing fees, attorneys' fees, escrow fees, 143  
lien recordation fees, judgment and lien search fees, finder's 144  
fees, commissions, and other payments to a broker or other 145  
intermediary. "Transfer expense" does not include pre-existing 146  
obligations of the payee payable for the payee's account from 147  
the proceeds of a transfer. 148

(T) "Transferee" means a party acquiring or proposing to 149  
acquire structured settlement payment rights through a transfer 150  
~~of those rights.~~ 151

**Sec. 2323.581.** No direct or indirect transfer of 152  
structured settlement payment rights shall be effective, and no 153  
structured settlement obligor or annuity issuer shall be 154  
required to make any payment directly or indirectly to a 155  
transferee or assignee of structured settlement payment rights, 156  
~~unless the transferee has provided the payee and other~~ 157  
~~interested parties with the disclosures required by section~~ 158  
~~2323.582 of the Revised Code and the transfer has been approved~~ 159  
in advance in a final order of a court of competent jurisdiction 160  
~~in accordance with sections 2323.583 and 2323.584 of the Revised~~ 161  
Code based on express findings by the court of all of the 162  
following: 163

(A) The transfer is in the best interest of the payee, 164  
taking into account the welfare and support of the payee's 165  
dependents. 166

(B) The payee has been advised in writing by the 167  
transferee to seek independent professional advice regarding the 168  
transfer and has either received that advice or knowingly waived 169  
in writing the opportunity to seek and receive that advice. 170

(C) The transfer does not contravene any applicable 171  
statute or order of any court or other government authority. 172

**Sec. 2323.582.** Not less than ten days prior to the date on 173  
which a payee ~~becomes obligated under~~ signs a transfer 174  
agreement, the transferee shall provide to the payee a separate 175  
disclosure statement, in boldface type of the minimum size of 176  
fourteen points, setting forth all of the following: 177

(A) The amounts and due dates of the structured settlement 178  
payments that would be transferred under the transfer agreement; 179

(B) The aggregate amount of the payments described in 180  
division (A) of this section; 181

(C) The discounted present value of the payments described 182  
in division (A) of this section, which shall be identified as 183  
the "calculation of current value of the transferred structured 184  
settlement payments under federal standards for valuing 185  
annuities," and the amount of the applicable federal rate used 186  
in determining the discounted present value; 187

(D) The gross advance amount ~~payable to the payee in~~ 188  
~~exchange for or as consideration for the transfer of the~~ 189  
~~structured settlement payments described in division (A) of this~~ 190  
~~section;~~ 191

(E) An itemized listing of all ~~brokers' commissions,~~ 192  
~~service charges, application fees, processing fees, closing~~ 193  
~~costs, filing fees, administrative fees, legal fees, notary~~ 194  
~~fees, and other commissions, fees, costs, expenses, and charges~~ 195  
~~payable by the payee or deductible from the gross amount~~ 196  
~~otherwise payable to the payee as described in division (D) of~~ 197  
~~this section~~ applicable transfer expenses, other than attorneys' 198  
fees and related disbursements payable in connection with the 199  
transferee's application for approval of the transfer, and the 200  
transferee's best estimate of the amount of any such fees and 201  
disbursements; 202

(F) The net advance amount ~~payable to the payee after~~ 203  
~~deduction from the gross amount payable to the payee as~~ 204  
~~described in division (D) of this section of all commissions,~~ 205  
~~fees, costs, expenses, and charges described in division (E) of~~ 206  
~~this section;~~ 207

(G) The ~~quotient, expressed as a percentage, obtained by~~ 208  
~~dividing the net amount payable to the payee as described in~~ 209  
~~division (F) of this section by the discounted present value of~~ 210  
~~the payments described in division (C) of this section~~ effective 211  
annual interest rate, which shall be disclosed as follows: "On 212  
the basis of the net amount that you will receive from us and 213  
the amounts and timing of the structured settlement payments 214  
that you are transferring to us, you will, in effect, be paying 215  
interest to us at a rate of ..... per cent per year"; 216

(H) The aggregate amount of any penalty ~~and the aggregate~~ 217  
~~amount of any or liquidated damages, including penalties,~~ 218  
payable by the payee in the event of any breach of the transfer 219  
agreement by the payee; 220

(I) That the payee has the right to cancel the transfer 221

agreement, without penalty or further obligation, not later than 222  
the third business day after the date the agreement is signed by 223  
the payee; 224

(J) That the payee has the right to seek and receive 225  
independent professional advice regarding the proposed transfer 226  
and should consider doing so before agreeing to transfer any 227  
structured settlement payment rights. 228

~~Sec. 2323.583. A court of competent jurisdiction may~~ 229  
~~approve~~ Following a transfer of structured settlement payment 230  
rights only in a final order that is based on the express 231  
findings of the court, and the express findings shall include 232  
pursuant to sections 2323.58 to 2323.585 of the Revised Code, 233  
all of the following apply: 234

~~(A) The transferee has provided to the payee a disclosure~~ 235  
~~statement that complies with section 2323.582 of the Revised~~ 236  
~~Code, and the payee has confirmed the payee's receipt of the~~ 237  
~~disclosure statement, as evidenced by the payee's notarized~~ 238  
~~signature on a copy of the disclosure statement~~ structured 239  
settlement obligor and the annuity issuer may rely on the court 240  
order approving the transfer in redirecting periodic payments to 241  
an assignee or transferee in accordance with the order approving 242  
the transfer and shall, as to all parties except the transferee 243  
or an assignee designated by the transferee, be discharged and 244  
released from any and all liability for the redirected payments. 245  
That discharge and release shall not be affected by the failure 246  
of any party to the transfer to comply with sections 2323.58 to 247  
2323.585 of the Revised Code or with the court order approving 248  
the transfer. 249

~~(B) (1) Except as provided in division (B) (2) of this~~ 250  
~~section, the payee has established that the transfer is fair and~~ 251

~~reasonable and in the best interests of the payee and the  
payee's dependents.~~ 252  
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~~(2) If, on the effective date of the transfer agreement, a  
federal hardship standard exists, the payee has established that  
the transfer meets that hardship standard.~~ 254  
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~~(C) The payee has received independent professional advice  
regarding the legal and other implications of the transfer.~~ 257  
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~~(D) If The transferee shall be liable to the structured  
settlement obligor and the annuity issuer, as follows:~~ 259  
260

~~(1) For any taxes incurred by the structured settlement  
obligor or annuity issuer as a consequence of the transfer, if  
the transfer contravenes the terms of the structured settlement  
involved, all of the following have been complied with:~~ 261  
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~~(1) Each dependent whom the payee is legally obligated to  
support by court order or decree, in a written approval and  
waiver, approves the transfer and waives the right to require  
that the structured settlement payments be made to the payee in  
accordance with the terms of the structured settlement.;~~ 265  
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~~(2) Any court or responsible administrative authority that  
previously approved the structured settlement, other than the  
court from which the approval of the transfer is sought under  
sections 2323.58 to 2323.585 of the Revised Code, has expressly  
approved the transfer in writing For any other liabilities or  
costs, including reasonable costs and attorneys' fees, arising  
from compliance by the structured settlement obligor or annuity  
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.~~ 270  
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~~(3) The transferee has provided to the court in which the~~ 280

~~application for approval of the transfer was filed all of the~~ 281  
~~signed original copies of the approvals required under divisions~~ 282  
~~(D) (1) and (2) of this section.~~ 283

~~(4) The transferee has furnished each interested party~~ 284  
~~copies of the approvals required under divisions (D) (1) and (2)~~ 285  
~~of this section.~~ 286

~~(E) The transferee has given written notice of the~~ 287  
~~transferee's name, address, and taxpayer identification number~~ 288  
~~to the annuity issuer and the structured settlement obligor and~~ 289  
~~has filed a copy of that notice with the court in which the~~ 290  
~~application for approval of the transfer was filed.~~ 291

~~(F) The~~ (C) Neither the annuity issuer nor the structured 292  
settlement obligor may be required to divide any periodic 293  
payment between the payee and any transferee or assignee or 294  
between two or more transferees or assignees. 295

(D) Any further transfer of structured settlement payment 296  
rights by the payee may be made only if the transfer complies 297  
with all of the requirements of sections 2323.58 to 2323.585 of 298  
the Revised Code ~~and does not contravene any applicable law.~~ 299

**Sec. 2323.584.** (A) A ~~person~~ transferee shall file an 300  
application under sections 2323.58 to 2323.585 of the Revised 301  
Code for the approval in advance of a transfer of structured 302  
settlement payment rights in the probate division of the court 303  
of common pleas of the county in which the payee resides, except 304  
that if the structured settlement agreement was approved by a 305  
court of common pleas or other Ohio state court, the application 306  
shall be filed in the Ohio state court that approved the 307  
structured settlement agreement. ~~If the structured settlement~~ 308  
~~agreement was not approved by an Ohio court, a person shall file~~ 309

~~an application under sections 2323.58 to 2323.585 of the Revised Code for the approval in advance of a transfer of structured settlement payment rights in the probate division of the court of common pleas of the county in which the payee, the structured settlement obligor, or the annuity issuer resides.~~ 310-314

(B) The following procedures shall apply to an application for the approval in advance by a court of a transfer of structured settlement payment rights under division (A) of this section: 315-318

~~(1) Upon the filing of the application, the~~ The court shall set a date and time for hold a timely hearing on the application and shall notify the transferee of the date, time, and place of the hearing. The payee shall appear in person at the hearing unless the court determines that good cause exists to excuse the payee from appearing in person. 319-324

(2) Not less than twenty days prior to the date set by the court for the hearing on an application filed pursuant to this section, the transferee shall file with the court and shall serve on ~~the court or any responsible administrative authority that previously approved the structured settlement, on all interested parties, and on the annuity issuer and the structured settlement obligor~~ including a parent or other guardian or authorized legal representative of any interested party who is not legally competent, in the manner prescribed in the Rules of Civil Procedure for the service of process, a notice of the proposed transfer and the application for its approval in advance. The notice shall include all of the following: 325-336

(a) A copy of the application; 337

(b) A copy of the transfer agreement; 338

(c) A copy of the disclosure statement provided by the transferee pursuant to section 2323.582 of the Revised Code and signed by the payee pursuant to division (A) of section 2323.583 of the Revised Code;

(d) The payee's name, age, and county of residence and the number and ages of each of the payee's dependents;

(e) A summary of both of the following:

(i) Any prior transfers by the payee to the transferee or an affiliate, or through the transferee or an affiliate to an assignee, within the four years preceding the date of the transfer agreement and any proposed transfers by the payee to the transferee or an affiliate, or through the transferee or an affiliate to an assignee, applications for approval of which were denied within the two years preceding the date of the transfer agreement;

(ii) Any prior transfers by the payee to any person or entity other than the transferee or an affiliate, or an assignee of the transferee or an affiliate, within the three years preceding the date of the transfer agreement and any prior proposed transfers by the payee to any person or entity other than the transferee or an affiliate, or an assignee of a transferee or affiliate, applications for approval of which were denied within the one year preceding the date of the current transfer agreement, to the extent that the transfers or proposed transfers have been disclosed to the transferee by the payee in writing or otherwise are actually known to the transferee.

(f) Notification of the date, time, and place of the hearing on the application;

~~(e)~~ (g) Notification that any interested party may

support, oppose, or otherwise respond to the application, either 368  
in person or by counsel, by submitting to the court a written 369  
response containing the interested party's support of, 370  
opposition to, or comments on the application or by 371  
participating in the hearing; 372

~~(f)~~ (h) Notification of the manner of filing a written 373  
response to the application and the time within which the 374  
response is required to be filed, which time shall be not less 375  
than fifteen days after the service of the transferee's notice, 376  
in order for the court to consider it. 377

~~(3) Within fifteen days after receipt of the notice~~ 378  
~~described in division (B) (2) of this section, any interested~~ 379  
~~party who wishes to respond to the application shall file a~~ 380  
~~written response with the court personally or by certified mail,~~ 381  
~~return receipt requested.~~ 382

~~(4) At the conclusion of the hearing on an application~~ 383  
~~under this section, the court may grant or deny the approval of~~ 384  
~~the transfer. The court shall enter its order accordingly. If~~ 385  
~~the court grants the approval of the transfer, it shall include~~ 386  
~~in its order all of the express findings specified in section~~ 387  
~~2323.583 of the Revised Code. If the court denies the approval~~ 388  
~~of the transfer, it shall include in its order the reasons for~~ 389  
~~the denial.~~ 390

~~(5) An order of the court made under division (B) (4) of~~ 391  
~~this section is a final and appealable order.~~ 392

**Sec. 2323.585.** (A) No payee who proposes to make a 393  
transfer of structured settlement payment rights shall incur any 394  
penalty, forfeit any application fee or other payment, or 395  
otherwise incur any liability to the proposed transferee or any 396

assignee based on a failure of the transfer to comply with any 397  
of the requirements of sections 2323.581 to 2323.584 of the 398  
Revised Code. 399

(B) No provision of this section or section 2323.581, 400  
2323.582, 2323.583, or 2323.584 of the Revised Code may be 401  
waived by any payee. 402

(C) No provision of this section or section 2323.581, 403  
2323.582, 2323.583, or 2323.584 of the Revised Code authorizes 404  
any transfer of structured settlement payment rights in 405  
contravention of applicable law or ~~gives effect to~~ implies that 406  
~~any transfer of structured settlement payment rights that is~~ 407  
~~void under any applicable law~~ under a transfer agreement that 408  
was entered into prior to the effective date of this amendment 409  
is valid or invalid. 410

(D) Any transfer agreement entered into on or after the 411  
effective date of this amendment by a payee who resides in this 412  
state shall provide that disputes under the transfer agreement, 413  
including any claim that the payee has breached the agreement, 414  
are to be determined in and under the laws of this state. No 415  
such transfer agreement shall authorize the transferee or any 416  
other party to confess judgment or consent to entry of judgment 417  
against the payee. 418

(E) No transfer of structured settlement payment rights 419  
shall extend to any payments that are life-contingent unless, 420  
prior to the date on which the payee signs the transfer 421  
agreement, the transferee has established and has agreed to 422  
maintain procedures reasonably satisfactory to the annuity 423  
issuer and the structured settlement obligor for both of the 424  
following: 425

<u>(1) Periodically confirming the payee's survival;</u>	426
<u>(2) Giving the annuity issuer and the structured</u>	427
<u>settlement obligor prompt written notice in the event of the</u>	428
<u>payee's death.</u>	429
<u>(F) If the payee cancels a transfer agreement, or if the</u>	430
<u>transfer agreement otherwise terminates, after an application</u>	431
<u>for approval of a transfer of structured settlement payment</u>	432
<u>rights has been filed and before it has been granted or denied,</u>	433
<u>the transferee shall promptly request dismissal of the</u>	434
<u>application.</u>	435
<b>Sec. 2323.586.</b> <u>The Compliance with section 2323.582 of the</u>	436
<u>Revised Code and the fulfillment of the conditions set forth in</u>	437
<u>section 2323.581 of the Revised Code shall be solely the</u>	438
<u>responsibility of the transferee in any transfer of structured</u>	439
<u>settlement payment rights, and neither the structured settlement</u>	440
<u>obligor and nor the annuity issuer under a transfer or transfer-</u>	441
<u>agreement are immune from shall bear any responsibility for, or</u>	442
<u>any liability based upon any claim by the payee, or any party,</u>	443
<u>other than a transferee, claiming through the payee, as to any</u>	444
<u>structured settlement payment rights or periodic payments that</u>	445
<u>are the subject of the transfer or transfer agreement arising</u>	446
<u>from, noncompliance with the requirements or failure to fulfill</u>	447
<u>the conditions.</u>	448
<b>Sec. 2323.587.</b> <u>A violation of or failure to comply with</u>	449
<u>section 2323.581, 2323.582, 2323.583, 2323.584, 2323.585, or</u>	450
<u>2323.586 of the Revised Code is an unfair or deceptive act or</u>	451
<u>practice in violation of section 1345.02 of the Revised Code.</u>	452
<b>Section 2.</b> <u>That existing sections 2323.58, 2323.581,</u>	453
<u>2323.582, 2323.583, 2323.584, 2323.585, 2323.586, and 2323.587</u>	454

of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 455

**Section 3.** Sections 2323.58, 2323.581, 2323.582, 2323.583, 456  
2323.584, 2323.585, 2323.586, and 2323.587 of the Revised Code, 457  
as amended by this act, shall apply to a transfer of structured 458  
settlement payment rights under any transfer agreement entered 459  
into on or after the effective date of this act. 460