As Reported by Senate Judiciary Committee

132nd General Assembly

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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 division (A) of	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 a 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
<pre>proposing to acquire structured settlement-agreement:</pre>	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" means_includes_a spouse of a payee, a	62
minor child of a payee, or and any other member of the family of	63
a payee or other person for whom, by law or by court order or	64
decree, the payee is legally obligated to <pre>provide</pre> 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, as issued by the	71
United States internal revenue service.	72
(E) "Gross advance amount" means the sum payable to the	73
payee or for the payee's account as consideration for a transfer	74

the structured settlement that has continuing rights or

obligations to receive or make payments under the structured

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settlement-agreement.	104
(G) (H) "Net advance amount" means the gross advance	105
amount less the aggregate amount of the actual and estimated	106
transfer expenses required to be disclosed under division (E) of	107
section 2323.582 of the Revised Code.	108
(I) "Payee" means an individual who is receiving periodic	109
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	115
monthly or other periodic payments and scheduled future lump-sum	116
payments under a structured settlement.	117
(I) (K) "Qualified assignment agreement" means an	118
agreement that provides for a qualified assignment, as defined	119
in section 130 of the "Internal Revenue Code of 1986," 100 Stat.	120
2085, 26 U.S.C.A. 130(c), as amended, through an assignment of	121
the liability under a structured settlement agreement to make-	122
periodic payments as damages, on account of personal injury or-	123
sickness.	124
(J) "Responsible administrative authority" means any	125
government authority of another state vested by the law of that	126
state with the original exclusive jurisdiction over the settled-	127
claim resolved by a structured settlement.	128
(K) "Settled claim" means the original tort claim resolved	129
by a structured settlement.	130
(L) "Structured settlement" means an arrangement for	131
periodic payments of damages for injury to a person personal	132

<u>perfection of a security interest in structured settlement</u>	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) <u>"Transfer expense" means any expense of a transfer</u>	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

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
<pre>following:</pre>	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 signs 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;	239
(G) The quotient, expressed as a percentage, obtained by	240
dividing the net amount payable to the payee as described in	241
division (F) of this section by the discounted present value of	242
the payments described in division (C) of this section effective	243
annual interest rate, which shall be disclosed as follows: "On	244
the basis of the net amount that you will receive from us and	245
the amounts and timing of the structured settlement payments	246
that you are transferring to us, you will, in effect, be paying	247
interest to us at a rate of per cent per year";	248
(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
(A) The transferee has provided to the payee a disclosure	267
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
signature on a copy of the disclosure statement structured	271
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	279

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	309
failure of any party to the transfer to comply with sections	310
2323.58 to 2323.585 of the Revised Code.	311
(3) The transferee has provided to the court in which the	312
application for approval of the transfer was filed all of the-	313
signed original copies of the approvals required under divisions-	314
(D) (1) and (2) of this section.	315
(4) The transferee has furnished each interested party	316
copies of the approvals required under divisions (D)(1) and (2)	317
of 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 structured	324
settlement obligor may be required to divide any periodic	325
payment between the payee and any transferee or assignee or	326
between 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 an	332
application under sections 2323.58 to 2323.585 of the Revised	333
Code for the approval in advance of a transfer of structured	334
settlement payment rights in the <u>probate division of the court</u>	335
of common pleas of the county in which the payee resides, except	336
that if the structured settlement agreement was approved by a	337

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<u>court of common pleas or other Ohio state court, the application</u>	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
Code for the approval in advance of a transfer of structured-	343
settlement payment rights in the probate division of the court	344
of common pleas of the county in which the payee, the structured-	345
settlement obligor, or the annuity issuer resides.	346
(B) The following procedures shall apply to an application	347
for the approval in advance by a court of a transfer of	348
structured settlement payment rights under division (A) of this	349
section:	350
(1) Upon the filing of the application, the <u>The</u> 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

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
(e) (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) 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 any	426
penalty, forfeit any application fee or other payment, or	427
otherwise incur any liability to the proposed transferee or any	428
assignee based on a failure of the transfer to comply with any	429
of the requirements of sections 2323.581 to 2323.584 of the	430
Revised 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	443
effective date of this amendment by a payee who resides in this	444
state shall provide that disputes under the transfer agreement,	445
including any claim that the payee has breached the agreement,	446
are to be determined in and under the laws of this state. No	447
such transfer agreement shall authorize the transferee or any	448
other party to confess judgment or consent to entry of judgment	449
against the payee.	450
(E) No transfer of structured settlement payment rights	451
shall extend to any payments that are life-contingent unless,	452
prior to the date on which the payee signs the transfer	453
agreement, the transferee has established and has agreed to	454
maintain procedures reasonably satisfactory to the annuity	455

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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,	489	
as amended by this act, shall apply to a transfer of structured	490	
settlement payment rights under any transfer agreement entered	491	
into on or after the effective date of this act.	492	