
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STRUCTURED SETTLEMENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
2 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
3 as follows:

"CHAPTER

STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PROTECTION ACT

6 § -1 **Title.** This chapter shall be known and referred to
7 as the "Structured Settlement Protection Act".

8 § -2 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the
9 context otherwise requires:

10 "Annuity issuer" means an insurer that has issued a
11 contract to fund periodic payments under a structured
12 settlement.

13 "Dependents" include a payee's spouse and minor children
14 and all other persons for whom the payee is legally obligated to
15 provide support, including alimony.

16 "Discounted present value" means the present value of
17 future payments, determined by discounting the payments to the
18 present using the most recently published applicable federal



1 rate for determining the present value of an annuity, as issued
2 by the United States Internal Revenue Service.

3 "Gross advance amount" means the sum payable to the payee
4 or for the payee's account as consideration for a transfer of
5 structured settlement payment rights before any reductions for
6 transfer expenses or other deductions to be made from the
7 consideration.

8 "Independent professional advice" means advice of an
9 attorney, certified public accountant, actuary, or other
10 licensed professional adviser.

11 "Interested party" means, with respect to any structured
12 settlement, the payee, any beneficiary irrevocably designated
13 under the annuity contract to receive payments following the
14 payee's death, the annuity issuer, the structured settlement
15 obligor, and any other party that has continuing rights or
16 obligations under the structured settlement.

17 "Net advance amount" means the gross advance amount less
18 the aggregate amount of the actual and estimated transfer
19 expenses required to be disclosed under section -3(5).

20 "Payee" means an individual who is receiving tax free
21 payments under a structured settlement and proposes to make a
22 transfer of the payment rights.



1 "Periodic payments" includes both recurring payments and
2 scheduled future lump sum payments.

3 "Qualified assignment agreement" means an agreement
4 providing for a qualified assignment within the meaning of
5 Section 130 of the United States Internal Revenue Code, United
6 States Code Title 26, as amended from time to time.

7 "Responsible administrative authority" means, with respect
8 to a structured settlement, any government authority vested by
9 law with exclusive jurisdiction over the settled claim resolved
10 by the structured settlement.

11 "Settled claim" means the original tort claim resolved by a
12 structured settlement.

13 "Structured settlement" means an arrangement for periodic
14 payment of damages for personal injuries or sickness established
15 by settlement or judgment in resolution of a tort claim.

16 "Structured settlement agreement" means the agreement,
17 judgment, stipulation, or release embodying the terms of a
18 structured settlement.

19 "Structured settlement obligor" means, with respect to any
20 structured settlement, the party that has the continuing
21 obligation to make periodic payments to the payee under a



1 structured settlement agreement or a qualified assignment
2 agreement.

3 "Structured settlement payment rights" means rights to
4 receive periodic payments under a structured settlement, whether
5 from the structured settlement obligor or the annuity issuer,
6 where:

- 7 (1) The payee is domiciled in, or the domicile or
8 principal place of business of the structured
9 settlement obligor or the annuity issuer is located
10 in, this state;
- 11 (2) The structured settlement agreement was approved by a
12 court or responsible administrative authority in this
13 state; or
- 14 (3) The structured settlement agreement is expressly
15 governed by the laws of this State.

16 "Terms of the structured settlement" include, with respect
17 to any structured settlement, the terms of the structured
18 settlement agreement, the annuity contract, any qualified
19 assignment agreement, and any order or other approval of any
20 court or responsible administrative authority or other
21 government authority that authorized or approved the structured
22 settlement.



1 "Transfer" means any sale, assignment, pledge,
2 hypothecation, or other alienation or encumbrance of structured
3 settlement payment rights made by a payee for consideration;
4 provided that the term "transfer" shall not include the creation
5 or perfection of a security interest in structured settlement
6 payment rights under a blanket security agreement entered into
7 with an insured depository institution, in the absence of any
8 action to redirect the structured settlement payments to such
9 insured depository institution, or an agent or successor in
10 interest, or otherwise to enforce the blanket security interest
11 against the structured settlement payment rights.

12 "Transfer agreement" means the agreement providing for a
13 transfer of structured settlement payment rights.

14 "Transfer expenses" means all expenses of a transfer that
15 are required under the transfer agreement to be paid by the
16 payee or deducted from the gross advance amount, including,
17 without limitation, court filing fees, attorneys fees, escrow
18 fees, lien recordation fees, judgment and lien search fees,
19 finders' fees, commissions, and other payments to a broker or
20 other intermediary. "Transfer expenses" shall not include
21 preexisting obligations of the payee payable for the payee's
22 account from the proceeds of a transfer.



1 "Transferee" means a party acquiring or proposing to
2 acquire structured settlement payment rights through a transfer.

3 § -3 **Required disclosures to payee.** Not less than three
4 days prior to the date on which a payee signs a transfer
5 agreement, the transferee shall provide to the payee a separate
6 disclosure statement, in bold type no smaller than fourteen
7 points, setting forth:

- 8 (1) The amounts and due dates of the structured settlement
9 payments to be transferred;
- 10 (2) The aggregate amount of the payments in paragraph (1);
- 11 (3) The discounted present value of the payments to be
12 transferred, which shall be identified as the
13 "calculation of current value of the transferred
14 structured settlement payments under federal standards
15 for valuing annuities", and the amount of the
16 applicable federal rate used in calculating the
17 discounted present value;
- 18 (4) The gross advance amount;
- 19 (5) An itemized listing of all applicable transfer
20 expenses, other than attorneys' fees and related
21 disbursements payable in connection with the
22 transferee's application for approval of the transfer,



1 and the transferee's best estimate of the amount of
2 any of the fees and disbursements stated in this
3 paragraph;

4 (6) The net advance amount;

5 (7) The amount of any penalties or liquidated damages
6 payable by the payee in the event of any breach of the
7 transfer agreement by the payee; and

8 (8) A statement that the payee has the right to cancel the
9 transfer agreement, without penalty or further
10 obligation, not later than the third business day
11 after the date the agreement is signed by the payee.

12 **§ -4 Approval of transfers of structured settlement**

13 **payment rights.** No direct or indirect transfer of structured
14 settlement payment rights shall be effective and no structured
15 settlement obligor or annuity issuer shall be required to make
16 any payment directly or indirectly to any transferee of
17 structured settlement payment rights, unless the transfer has
18 been approved in advance in a final court order or order of a
19 responsible administrative authority based upon express findings
20 by the court or responsible administrative authority that:



- 1 (1) The transfer is in the best interest of the payee,
2 taking into account the welfare and support of the
3 payee's dependents;
- 4 (2) The payee has been advised in writing by the
5 transferee to seek independent professional advice
6 regarding the transfer and has either received the
7 advice or knowingly waived the advice in writing; and
- 8 (3) The transfer does not contravene any applicable
9 statute or the order of any court or other government
10 authority.

11 § -5 **Effects of transfer of structured settlement**

12 **payment rights.** Following a transfer of structured settlement
13 payment rights under this chapter:

- 14 (1) The structured settlement obligor and the annuity
15 issuer, as to all parties except the transferee, shall
16 be discharged and released from any and all liability
17 for the transferred payments;
- 18 (2) The transferee shall be liable to the structured
19 settlement obligor and the annuity issuer:
- 20 (A) For any taxes incurred by the parties as a
21 consequence of the transfer, if the transfer



1 contravenes the terms of the structured
2 settlement; and
3 (B) For any other liabilities or costs, including
4 reasonable costs and attorneys' fees, arising
5 from compliance by the parties with the order of
6 the court or responsible administrative
7 authority, or arising as a consequence of the
8 transferee's failure to comply with this chapter;

9 (3) Neither the annuity issuer nor the structured
10 settlement obligor may be required to divide any
11 periodic payment between the payee and any transferee
12 or assignee or between two or more transferees or
13 assignees; and

14 (4) Any further transfer of structured settlement payment
15 rights by the payee may be made only after compliance
16 with all of the requirements of this chapter.

17 § -6 **Procedure for approval of transfers.** (a) An
18 application under this chapter for approval of a transfer of
19 structured settlement payment rights shall be made by the
20 transferee and shall be brought:

21 (1) In the court that approved the structured settlement
22 agreement; or



- 1 (2) Before any responsible administrative authority:
- 2 (A) In the county in which the payee resides;
- 3 (B) In the county in which the structured settlement
- 4 obligor or the annuity issuer maintains its
- 5 principal place of business; or
- 6 (C) That approved the structured settlement
- 7 agreement.

8 (b) To apply for approval of a transfer of structured

9 settlement payment rights under section -4, the transferee

10 shall file with the court or responsible administrative

11 authority and serve on all interested parties a notice of the

12 proposed transfer and the application for its authorization.

13 The notice shall include:

- 14 (1) A copy of the transferee's application;
- 15 (2) A copy of the transfer agreement;
- 16 (3) A copy of the disclosure statement required under
- 17 section -3;
- 18 (4) A listing of each of the payee's dependents, together
- 19 with each dependent's age;
- 20 (5) Notification that any interested party is entitled to
- 21 support, oppose, or otherwise respond to the
- 22 transferee's application, either in person or by



1 counsel, by submitting written comments to the court
2 or responsible administrative authority or, if the
3 matter is to be set for oral hearing, by participating
4 in the hearing;

5 (6) Notification of the time and place of the hearing, if
6 any, and notification of the manner in which and the
7 time by which written responses to the application
8 shall be filed, to be considered by the court or
9 responsible administrative authority; provided that
10 the written responses shall be filed not less than
11 fifteen days after service of the transferee's notice;
12 and

13 (7) The court or responsible administrative authority may
14 schedule the application for oral hearing or may
15 determine the application on written submissions
16 without oral hearing. If the application is set for
17 oral hearing, the transferee shall submit the
18 application not less than twenty days prior to the
19 scheduled hearing.

20 § -7 **General provisions construction.** (a) The
21 provisions of this chapter may not be waived by any payee.



1 (b) Any transfer agreement entered into on or after the
2 effective date of this Act by a payee who resides in this state
3 shall provide that disputes under the transfer agreement,
4 including any claim that the payee has breached the agreement,
5 shall be determined in and under the laws of this State. No
6 transfer agreement shall authorize the transferee or any other
7 party to confess judgment or consent to entry of judgment
8 against the payee.

9 (c) No transfer of structured settlement payment rights
10 shall extend to any payments that are life-contingent unless,
11 prior to the date on which the payee signs the transfer
12 agreement, the transferee has established and has agreed to
13 maintain procedures reasonably satisfactory to the annuity
14 issuer and the structured settlement obligor for:

15 (1) Periodically confirming the payee's survival; and
16 (2) Giving the annuity issuer and the structured
17 settlement obligor prompt written notice in the event
18 of the payee's death.

19 (d) No payee who proposes to make a transfer of structured
20 settlement payment rights shall incur any penalty, forfeit any
21 application fee or other payment, or otherwise incur any
22 liability to the proposed transferee or any assignee based on



1 any failure of the transfer to satisfy the conditions of this
2 chapter.

3 (e) Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed
4 to authorize any transfer of structured settlement payment
5 rights in contravention of any law or to imply that any transfer
6 under a transfer agreement entered into prior to the effective
7 date of this Act is valid or invalid.

8 (f) Compliance with the requirements set forth in section
9 -3 and fulfillment of the conditions set forth in section
10 -4 shall be solely the responsibility of the transferee in
11 any transfer of structured settlement payment rights, and
12 neither the structured settlement obligor nor the annuity issuer
13 shall bear any responsibility for, or any liability arising
14 from, non-compliance with the requirements or failure to fulfill
15 the conditions."

16 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



HB 1977

HD1

Report Title:

Structured Settlement Payment Rights; Transfer

Description:

Establishes procedures for the transfer of structured settlement payment rights. (HB1977 HD1)

