

Chapter 721

(House Bill 535)

AN ACT concerning

**Courts and Judicial Proceedings – Structured Settlements – Transfers and
Registration of Structured Settlement Transferees**

FOR the purpose of making certain legislative findings and declarations; altering the findings that an order of a court authorizing a transfer of certain structured settlement rights is required to be based on; requiring a transferee to provide to a payee a certain disclosure statement; requiring ~~an application~~ a petition for a transfer of structured settlement payment rights to be filed in a certain court; ~~authorizing the Attorney General to intervene as of right in a certain action;~~ establishing certain requirements concerning a proposed transfer of structured settlement payment rights concerning certain tort claims; prohibiting a person from filing a petition for transfer of structured settlement payment rights unless the person is registered with the Attorney General or has a pending application for registration under certain circumstances; establishing registration requirements; requiring a transferee to file a certain letter of credit or bond with the Attorney General or deposit cash in a certain amount with the Attorney General; authorizing the Attorney General to suspend or revoke the registration of a structured settlement transferee or deny an application for registration under certain circumstances; authorizing the Attorney General to impose a certain civil penalty; requiring the Attorney General to consider certain factors in making certain determinations; providing for the application of certain provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act; requiring a structured settlement obligor to submit a certain statement to certain persons under certain circumstances; authorizing the Attorney General to adopt ~~and enforce~~ certain regulations; altering ~~a certain definition~~ definitions; defining certain terms; and generally relating to structured settlements.

BY renumbering

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 5–1104 and 5–1105, respectively
to be Section 5–1105 and 5–1106, respectively
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2013 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section ~~5–1101(e)~~ 5–1101, 5–1102, and ~~5–1103(a)~~ 5–1103
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2013 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 5-1101.1 ~~and 5-1106~~, 5-1104, and 5-1107 through 5-1112
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

~~SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That Section(s) 5-1104 and 5-1105, respectively, of Article – Courts and Judicial
 Proceedings of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 5-1105 and
 5-1106, respectively.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
 as follows:

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

5-1101.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Discounted present value” means the fair present value of future payments,
 as determined by discounting payments to the present using the most recently published
 applicable federal rate for determining the present value of an annuity, as issued by the
 United States Internal Revenue Service.

**(C) “GIFT” MEANS A TRANSFER TO A PAYEE OF ANYTHING OF ECONOMIC
 VALUE, REGARDLESS OF FORM, AS AN INDUCEMENT TO ENTER INTO A TRANSFER
 AGREEMENT OR PURSUE A TRANSFER, EXCEPT:**

**(1) THE ACTUAL COST, NOT TO EXCEED \$100, OF THE PAYEE’S
 TRANSPORTATION TO A HEARING CONCERNING A PETITION FILED UNDER § 5-1102
 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

**(2) THE COSTS OF POSTAGE, OVERNIGHT DELIVERY SERVICES,
 DOCUMENT RETRIEVAL FEES, AND NOTARY SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE FILING
 OF A PETITION UNDER § 5-1102 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

~~(D)~~ **(D)** “Independent professional advice” means advice of an attorney,
 certified public accountant, actuary, or other licensed professional adviser:

(1) Who is engaged by a payee to render advice concerning [the legal, tax,
 and financial implications of a] **WHETHER A PROPOSED** transfer of structured settlement
 payment rights **WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PAYEE, TAKING INTO
 ACCOUNT THE WELFARE AND SUPPORT OF THE PAYEE’S DEPENDENTS;**

(2) Who is not affiliated with or compensated by the transferee of the transfer; and

(3) Whose compensation is not affected by whether a transfer occurs.

[(d)] (E) “Interested parties” means the payee, each beneficiary designated under the annuity contract to receive payments following the payee’s death, the annuity issuer, the structured settlement obligor, and any other party that has continuing rights or obligations under a structured settlement.

[(e)] (F) “Payee” means an individual who receives damage payments that are not subject to income taxation under a structured settlement and proposes to make a transfer of payment rights.

(G) “REGISTRANT” MEANS A PERSON REGISTERED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

[(f)] (H) “Responsible administrative authority” means a government authority vested with exclusive jurisdiction over the settled claim resolved by a structured settlement.

[(g)] (I) (1) “Structured settlement” means an arrangement for periodic payment of damages for personal injury established by a settlement or judgment in resolution of a tort claim.

(2) “Structured settlement” does not include an arrangement for periodic payment of damages for personal injury established by a judgment by confession.

[(h)] (J) “Structured settlement agreement” means an agreement, judgment, stipulation, or release embodying the terms of a structured settlement.

[(i)] (K) “Structured settlement obligor” means a party who has the continuing periodic payment obligation to the payee under a structured settlement agreement or a qualified assignment agreement.

[(i)] (L) “Structured settlement payment rights” means the rights to receive periodic payments, including lump-sum payments under a structured settlement, whether from the settlement obligor or the annuity issuer, if:

(1) [An interested party is domiciled] **THE PAYEE RESIDES** in this State;

(2) The structured settlement agreement was approved by a court or responsible administrative authority in this State, **AND THE PAYEE DOES NOT RESIDE**

IN ANOTHER STATE OR JURISDICTION THAT HAS ENACTED A STATUTE PROVIDING FOR ENTRY OF A QUALIFIED ORDER AS DEFINED IN 26 U.S.C. § 58911(B)(2); or

(3) The settled claim was pending before a court of this State when the parties entered into the structured settlement agreement, AND THE PAYEE DOES NOT RESIDE IN ANOTHER STATE OR JURISDICTION THAT HAS ENACTED A STATUTE PROVIDING FOR ENTRY OF A QUALIFIED ORDER AS DEFINED IN 26 U.S.C. § 58911(B)(2).

[(k)] (M) “Terms of the structured settlement” includes the terms of the structured settlement agreement, the annuity contract, a qualified assignment, and an order or approval of a court or responsible administrative authority authorizing or approving a structured settlement.

[(l)] (N) “Transfer” means a sale, assignment, pledge, hypothecation, or other form of alienation or encumbrance made by a payee for consideration.

[(m)] (O) “Transfer agreement” means the agreement providing for the transfer of structured settlement payment rights from a payee to a transferee.

(P) “TRANSFeree” MEANS A PERSON ACQUIRING OR PROPOSING TO ACQUIRE STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PAYMENT RIGHTS THROUGH A TRANSFER.

5-1101.1.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO REGULATE TRANSFERS OF STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PAYMENT RIGHTS TO:

(1) ENSURE THAT THE TRANSFERS ARE EFFECTUATED ON FAIR AND REASONABLE TERMS AND ARE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF PAYEES; AND

(2) PROTECT PAYEES AGAINST DECEPTIVE PRACTICES.

5-1102.

(a) A direct or indirect transfer of structured settlement payment rights to a transferee is effective as provided in this subtitle.

(b) A structured settlement obligor or annuity issuer may not make any payment directly or indirectly to a transferee of structured settlement payment rights unless the transfer is authorized in an order of a court based on [a finding] **EXPRESS FINDINGS** that:

(1) The transfer is necessary, reasonable, [or] AND appropriate AND IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PAYEE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE WELFARE AND SUPPORT OF THE PAYEE'S DEPENDENTS;

(2) [The transfer is not expected to subject the payee, the payee's dependents, or both, to undue or unreasonable financial hardship in the future] THE FINANCIAL TERMS OF THE TRANSFER AGREEMENT ARE FAIR TO ALL PARTIES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

(I) THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AMOUNT PAYABLE TO THE PAYEE AND THE DISCOUNTED PRESENT VALUE OF THE PAYMENTS TO BE TRANSFERRED; AND

(II) THE DISCOUNT RATE APPLICABLE TO THE TRANSFER;

(3) The payee received independent professional advice [regarding the legal, tax, and financial implications of] CONCERNING the PROPOSED transfer; and

~~{(4) (3) The transferee disclosed to the payee the discounted present value~~ AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE THE DATE ON WHICH THE PAYEE SIGNED THE TRANSFER AGREEMENT, THE TRANSFEREE PROVIDED TO THE PAYEE A SEPARATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, IN AT LEAST 14 POINT BOLDFACE TYPE, THAT STATES:

(I) THE AMOUNTS AND DUE DATES OF THE STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS TO BE TRANSFERRED;

(II) THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF THE PAYMENTS TO BE TRANSFERRED;

(III) THE DISCOUNTED PRESENT VALUE OF THE PAYMENTS TO BE TRANSFERRED;

(IV) THE AMOUNT PAYABLE TO THE PAYEE IN EXCHANGE FOR THE PAYMENTS TO BE TRANSFERRED;

(V) AN ITEMIZED LISTING OF ALL BROKERS' COMMISSIONS, SERVICE CHARGES, APPLICATION FEES, PROCESSING FEES, CLOSING COSTS, FILING FEES, ADMINISTRATIVE FEES, NOTARY FEES, AND OTHER CHARGES PAYABLE BY THE PAYEE OR DEDUCTIBLE FROM THE GROSS AMOUNT OTHERWISE PAYABLE TO THE PAYEE, EXCEPT ATTORNEY'S FEES AND RELATED DISBURSEMENTS;

(VI) THE TRANSFEREE'S BEST ESTIMATE OF THE AMOUNT OF ANY ATTORNEY'S FEES AND DISBURSEMENTS PAYABLE BY THE PAYEE OR DEDUCTIBLE FROM THE GROSS AMOUNT OTHERWISE PAYABLE TO THE PAYEE;

(VII) THE NET AMOUNT PAYABLE TO THE PAYEE AFTER DEDUCTION OF ALL COMMISSIONS, FEES, COSTS, EXPENSES, AND CHARGES DESCRIBED IN ITEMS (V) AND (VI) OF THIS ITEM;

(VIII) THE DISCOUNT RATE APPLICABLE TO THE TRANSFER, WHICH SHALL BE DISCLOSED IN THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: “BASED ON THE NET AMOUNT THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE FROM US AND THE AMOUNTS AND TIMING OF THE STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS THAT YOU ARE TRANSFERRING TO US, YOU WILL, IN EFFECT, BE PAYING INTEREST TO US AT A RATE OF PERCENT PER YEAR.”;

(IX) THE AMOUNT OF ANY PENALTY OR LIQUIDATED DAMAGES PAYABLE BY THE PAYEE IN THE EVENT OF ANY BREACH OF THE TRANSFER AGREEMENT BY THE PAYEE; AND

(X) A STATEMENT THAT THE PAYEE HAS THE RIGHT TO CANCEL THE TRANSFER AGREEMENT, WITHOUT PENALTY OR FURTHER OBLIGATION, AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE TRANSFER IS AUTHORIZED BY A COURT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

5-1103.

(a) [The circuit court that has jurisdiction over an interested party or the circuit court for the county in which the original claim occurred shall have nonexclusive jurisdiction over an] ~~AN application~~ A PETITION for a transfer of structured settlement payment rights under § 5-1102 of this subtitle **SHALL BE FILED:**

(1) IF THE PAYEE RESIDES IN THIS STATE, IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE PAYEE RESIDES; OR

~~**(2) IF THE PAYEE DOES NOT RESIDE IN THIS STATE AND ONE OR MORE PRIOR APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED TRANSFER HAVE BEEN FILED IN THIS STATE, IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE MOST RECENT APPLICATION WAS FILED; OR**~~

~~**(3) IF THE PAYEE DOES NOT RESIDE IN THIS STATE AND NO PRIOR APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED TRANSFER HAVE BEEN FILED IN THIS STATE, IN ANY CIRCUIT COURT.**~~

(2) IF THE PAYEE DOES NOT RESIDE IN THIS STATE, IN THE CIRCUIT COURT:

(1) THAT APPROVED THE STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT; OR

(II) IN WHICH THE SETTLED CLAIM WAS PENDING WHEN THE PARTIES ENTERED INTO THE STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, IF THE STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT WAS NOT COURT APPROVED.

(b) A transferee shall file with the court and serve on the interested parties at least 20 days before the hearing on the [application] PETITION, a notice of the proposed transfer and [an application] A PETITION for its authorization, including:

(1) A copy of the transferee's [application] PETITION;

(2) A copy of the transfer agreement; and

(3) Notification:

(i) Of the time and place of the hearing; and

(ii) That each interested party is entitled to support, oppose, or otherwise respond to the transferee's [application] PETITION, in person or by counsel, by submitting written comments to the court or by participating in the hearing.

~~**(C) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY INTERVENE AS OF RIGHT IN AN ACTION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**~~

5-1104.

(A) IF, IN ANY PROPOSED TRANSFER OF STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PAYMENT RIGHTS, THE STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT WAS ESTABLISHED IN RESOLUTION OF A TORT CLAIM SEEKING COMPENSATION FOR COGNITIVE INJURIES, INCLUDING ANY CLAIM ARISING FROM CHILDHOOD EXPOSURE TO LEAD PAINT, THE TRANSFEREE SHALL:

(1) NOTIFY THE COURT, IN THE PETITION FILED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, THAT THE PAYEE MAY BE COGNITIVELY IMPAIRED;

(2) ATTACH TO THE PETITION A COPY OF ANY COMPLAINT THAT WAS PENDING WHEN THE STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT WAS ESTABLISHED; AND

(3) IDENTIFY ANY ALLEGATIONS OR STATEMENTS IN THE COMPLAINT THAT DESCRIBE THE NATURE, EXTENT, OR CONSEQUENCES OF THE PAYEE'S COGNITIVE INJURIES.

(B) (1) IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO AUTHORIZE A TRANSFER OF STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PAYMENT RIGHTS INVOLVING A STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT ESTABLISHED IN RESOLUTION OF A TORT CLAIM SEEKING

COMPENSATION FOR COGNITIVE INJURIES, INCLUDING ANY CLAIM ARISING FROM CHILDHOOD EXPOSURE TO LEAD PAINT, THE COURT SHALL CONSIDER WHETHER TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOR THE PAYEE OR TO REQUIRE THE PAYEE TO BE EXAMINED BY AN INDEPENDENT MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST DESIGNATED BY THE COURT.

(2) THE TRANSFEREE SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PAYMENT OF ANY FEES OF A GUARDIAN AD LITEM OR AN INDEPENDENT MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST APPOINTED OR DESIGNATED BY THE COURT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, AS SET FORTH IN A BILLING STATEMENT SPECIFYING TO THE TENTH OF AN HOUR THE AMOUNT OF WORK PERFORMED AND A REASONABLE HOURLY FEE FOR THE WORK.

5-1107.

A PERSON MAY NOT FILE A PETITION FOR A TRANSFER OF STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PAYMENT RIGHTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE UNLESS THE PERSON:

(1) IS REGISTERED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AS A STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT TRANSFEREE; OR

(2) HAS A PENDING APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS NOT ACTED ON THE APPLICATION WITHIN THE TIME SPECIFIED IN THIS SUBTITLE.

5-1108.

(A) (1) TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION AS A STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT TRANSFEREE, AN APPLICANT SHALL:

(I) SUBMIT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL UNDER OATH AN APPLICATION ON THE FORM PROVIDED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL; AND

(II) PAY A REGISTRATION FEE OF \$2,000, OF WHICH ~~\$1,000~~ \$1,500 SHALL BE REFUNDABLE IN THE EVENT THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DENIES THE APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION.

(2) ALL FEES COLLECTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE USED TO ADMINISTER THE REGISTRATION PROGRAM.

(3) IN THE CASE OF AN APPLICANT THAT, AT THE TIME OF ITS APPLICATION, IS NOT REGISTERED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AS A STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT TRANSFEREE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL GRANT

OR DENY AN APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION WITHIN 90 DAYS OF SUBMISSION OF THE COMPLETE APPLICATION AND ALL APPLICABLE FEES.

(B) (1) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY REQUIRE A STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT TRANSFEREE TO REAPPLY FOR REGISTRATION ON AN ANNUAL BASIS OR LESS FREQUENTLY, AS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DETERMINES.

(2) IN THE CASE OF A REGISTRANT APPLYING FOR RENEWAL OF ITS REGISTRATION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL GRANT OR DENY AN APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION WITHIN 30 DAYS OF SUBMISSION OF THE COMPLETE APPLICATION AND ALL APPLICABLE FEES.

(C) IF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DETERMINES THAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM AN APPLICANT IS NEEDED, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY EXTEND UNILATERALLY THE DEADLINE FOR GRANTING OR DENYING THE APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION BY AN ADDITIONAL 60 DAYS.

(D) THE APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AS A STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT TRANSFEREE SHALL REQUIRE AN APPLICANT TO PROVIDE:

(1) THE APPLICANT'S FULL NAME;

(2) THE ADDRESS OF THE APPLICANT'S PRINCIPAL OFFICE OR PLACE OF BUSINESS;

(3) IN THE CASE OF AN APPLICANT WHO IS AN INDIVIDUAL, THE APPLICANT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER;

(4) IN THE CASE OF AN APPLICANT OTHER THAN AN INDIVIDUAL:

(i) THE APPLICANT'S FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER; AND

(ii) THE NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS OF:

1. EACH OFFICER, DIRECTOR, GENERAL PARTNER, MEMBER, AND MANAGER, IF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, OF THE APPLICANT;

2. IF THE APPLICANT IS NOT SUBJECT TO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934, EACH PERSON WHO OWNS 5% OR MORE OF THE APPLICANT; AND

3. EACH OFFICER, DIRECTOR, MEMBER, AND PRINCIPAL OF THE APPLICANT;

(5) ANY TRADE NAME THROUGH WHICH THE APPLICANT INTENDS TO DO BUSINESS AS A TRANSFEREE IN THE STATE, PROVIDED THAT A TRANSFEREE MAY MAINTAIN REGISTRATION OF NO MORE THAN FOUR TRADE NAMES; AND

(6) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REQUIRES.

(E) IF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DENIES AN APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL SPECIFY IN WRITING THE REASON FOR THE DENIAL.

5-1109.

(A) ON ACCEPTANCE BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A TRANSFEREE'S APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION AS A STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT TRANSFEREE, THE TRANSFEREE SHALL PROMPTLY:

(1) FILE WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AN IRREVOCABLE LETTER OF CREDIT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000 ISSUED BY A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION;

(2) DEPOSIT WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CASH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000; OR

(3) FILE WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL A BOND THAT IS:

(I) IN FAVOR OF THE STATE;

(II) IN THE PENAL SUM OF \$100,000; AND

(III) EXECUTED BY AN AUTHORIZED SURETY INSURER.

(B) A BOND SHALL REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL THE SURETY INSURER IS RELEASED FROM LIABILITY BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR UNTIL THE BOND IS CANCELED BY THE SURETY INSURER.

(C) THE TOTAL LIABILITY OF THE SURETY INSURER UNDER A BOND MAY NOT EXCEED THE PENAL SUM OF THE BOND.

(D) (1) (I) THE SURETY INSURER MAY CANCEL A BOND AFTER FILING A WRITTEN NOTICE WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE CANCELLATION.

(II) A CANCELLATION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT AFFECT ANY LIABILITY THAT ACCRUED BEFORE THE CANCELLATION.

(2) AFTER NOTIFICATION OF THE CANCELLATION OF THE BOND, THE TRANSFEREE SHALL ACT PROMPTLY TO REPLACE THE BOND.

(3) IF THE TRANSFEREE FAILS TO ACT PROMPTLY TO REPLACE THE BOND, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY DENY, SUSPEND, OR REVOKE THE REGISTRATION OF THE TRANSFEREE UNTIL THE REQUIRED BOND IS FILED.

(E) IF, AT ANY TIME, A STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT TRANSFEREE FAILS TO COMPLY WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY DENY, SUSPEND, OR REVOKE THE REGISTRATION OF THE TRANSFEREE UNTIL THE TRANSFEREE COMPLIES WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

5-1110.

(A) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY SUSPEND OR REVOKE THE REGISTRATION OF A STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT TRANSFEREE, OR DENY AN APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION, IF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FINDS THAT THE TRANSFEREE OR ANY OF ITS EMPLOYEES, AFFILIATES, OR AGENTS HAS:

(1) DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY PAID ANY FEE OR CHARGE TO ANY PERSON AS AN INDUCEMENT TO REFER A PAYEE TO THE TRANSFEREE IN CONNECTION WITH A TRANSFER SUBJECT TO THIS SUBTITLE;

(2) DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY OFFERED OR PROVIDED ANY GIFT TO A PAYEE OR A MEMBER OF A PAYEE'S FAMILY IN CONNECTION WITH A TRANSFER SUBJECT TO THIS SUBTITLE;

(3) DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY OFFERED ANY LOAN, EXTENSION OF CREDIT, OR ADVANCE TO A PAYEE OR A MEMBER OF A PAYEE'S FAMILY AS AN INDUCEMENT TO TRANSFER STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PAYMENT RIGHTS;

(4) MADE ANY REFERRAL OF A PAYEE FOR INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL ADVICE CONCERNING A PROPOSED TRANSFER SUBJECT TO THIS SUBTITLE OTHER THAN A REFERRAL TO A LOCAL OR STATE BAR ASSOCIATION OR NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE UNAFFILIATED WITH ANY STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT TRANSFEREE THAT MAKES REFERRALS TO ATTORNEYS, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, OR LICENSED FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS;

(5) COMMUNICATED WITH A PAYEE OR A PERSON RELATED TO A PAYEE WITH OBSCENE OR GROSSLY ABUSIVE LANGUAGE, WITH THE FREQUENCY, AT UNUSUAL HOURS, OR IN ANY OTHER MANNER AS REASONABLY CAN BE EXPECTED TO

ABUSE OR HARASS THE PAYEE IN CONNECTION WITH A TRANSFER SUBJECT TO THIS SUBTITLE;

(6) ENGAGED IN ANY UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICE, UNDER § 13-301 OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE;

(7) CONDUCTED BUSINESS IN THE STATE RELATED TO THE TRANSFER OF STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PAYMENT RIGHTS IN ANY NAME OTHER THAN THE NAME OR TRADE NAME REGISTERED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL;

(8) WITH RESPECT TO A TRANSFEREE, ITS AFFILIATES, DIRECTORS, MEMBERS, GENERAL PARTNERS, OFFICERS, OR EXECUTIVE, MANAGERIAL, PROFESSIONAL, OR SALES AND MARKETING EMPLOYEES, BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME INVOLVING DISHONESTY, DECEPTION, OR MORAL TURPITUDE;

(9) BEEN FOUND BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION OR A GOVERNMENT AGENCY TO HAVE COMMITTED FRAUD, ENGAGED IN UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES, OR COMMITTED ANY OTHER CIVIL WRONG OR REGULATORY VIOLATION INVOLVING DISHONESTY OR DECEPTION; OR

(10) OTHERWISE FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE IN CONNECTION WITH A TRANSFER SUBJECT TO THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) IN ADDITION TO, OR INSTEAD OF, DENYING AN APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION, OR SUSPENDING OR REVOKING THE REGISTRATION OF ANY REGISTRANT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY IMPOSE A CIVIL PENALTY FOR EACH VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE IN AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING:

(1) \$1,000 FOR A FIRST VIOLATION; AND

(2) \$5,000 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION.

(C) IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO DENY AN APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OR SUSPEND OR REVOKE THE REGISTRATION OF A REGISTRANT, OR THE AMOUNT OF ANY CIVIL PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL CONSIDER:

(1) THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATION;

(2) THE GOOD FAITH OF THE TRANSFEREE;

(3) ANY HISTORY OF PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS; AND

(4) ANY OTHER FACTOR RELEVANT TO THE DETERMINATION.

(D) (1) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHALL PROVIDE TO A REGISTRANT NOTICE AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A HEARING UNDER TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE TO CONTEST A PROPOSED DISCIPLINARY ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION, EXCEPT THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY DELEGATE THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT A HEARING TO A DEPUTY OR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.

(2) ANY PARTY AGGRIEVED BY A DECISION AND ORDER OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL UNDER THIS SECTION AND § 5-1108 OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW AS PROVIDED UNDER §§ 10-222 AND 10-223 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

5-1111.

IF, IN CONNECTION WITH A TRANSFER OF STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PAYMENT RIGHTS, A STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT OBLIGOR IMPOSES TOTAL FEES AND CHARGES IN EXCESS OF \$350, THE STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT OBLIGOR SHALL SUBMIT A STATEMENT TO THE PAYEE AND THE TRANSFEREE IDENTIFYING EACH PERSON WHO PERFORMED WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRANSFER, SPECIFYING TO THE TENTH OF AN HOUR THE AMOUNT OF WORK THE PERSON PERFORMED, AND SPECIFYING A REASONABLE HOURLY FEE FOR THE PERSON'S WORK.

~~5-1106.~~

~~THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY ADOPT AND ENFORCE REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING A DISCOUNT RATE APPLICABLE TO TRANSFERS OF STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS ABOVE WHICH A PROPOSED TRANSFER SHALL BE PRESUMED TO BE NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF A PAYEE.~~

5-1112.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 28, 2016.