

By: Murr

H.B. No. 2574

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2574:

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C.S.H.B. No. 2574

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to rules adopted by the Texas Supreme Court to promote the
3 expedited resolution of a civil action.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 22.004(h), Government Code, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 (h) The supreme court shall adopt rules to promote the
8 prompt, efficient, and cost-effective resolution of civil actions.
9 The rules shall apply to civil actions in district courts, county
10 courts at law, and statutory probate courts in which the amount in
11 controversy, inclusive of all claims for damages of any kind,
12 whether actual or exemplary, a penalty, ~~[attorney's fees,~~
13 expenses, costs, interest, or any other type of damage of any kind,
14 does not exceed \$100,000. Attorney's fees are not included in
15 determining the amount in controversy under this subsection.
16 Notwithstanding any other law, the rules shall provide that
17 attorney's fees awarded in an action under this subsection may not
18 exceed \$50,000. The rules shall address the need for lowering
19 discovery costs in these actions and the procedure for ensuring
20 that these actions will be expedited in the civil justice system.
21 The supreme court may not adopt rules under this subsection that
22 conflict with a provision of:

23 (1) Chapter 74, Civil Practice and Remedies Code;

24 (2) the Family Code;

1 (3) the Property Code; or

2 (4) the Tax Code.

3 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2018, the Texas Supreme
4 Court shall adopt rules necessary to implement Section [22.004\(h\)](#),
5 Government Code, as amended by this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.