

By: Murr

H.B. No. 2574

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to rules adopted by the Texas Supreme Court to promote the expedited resolution of a civil action.

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

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

(h) The supreme court shall adopt rules to promote the prompt, efficient, and cost-effective resolution of civil actions. The rules shall apply to civil actions in district courts, county courts at law, and statutory probate courts in which the amount in controversy, inclusive of all claims for damages of any kind, whether actual or exemplary, a penalty, ~~attorney's fees,~~ expenses, costs, interest, or any other type of damage of any kind, does not exceed \$200,000 [~~\$100,000~~]. Attorney's fees are not included in determining the amount in controversy under this subsection. The rules shall address the need for lowering discovery costs in these actions and the procedure for ensuring that these actions will be expedited in the civil justice system. The supreme court may not adopt rules under this subsection that conflict with a provision of:

- (1) Chapter 74, Civil Practice and Remedies Code;
- (2) the Family Code;
- (3) the Property Code; or
- (4) the Tax Code.

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

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