

1-1 By: Davis of Harris (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 770  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 11, 2019;  
 1-3 May 7, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on State  
 1-4 Affairs; May 14, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote:  
 1-5 Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 14, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the establishment of an electronic database for  
 1-20 settlement agreements for certain suits involving minors or  
 1-21 incapacitated persons; authorizing a fee.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 72, Government Code, is  
 1-24 amended by adding Section 72.034 to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 72.034. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT DATABASE. (a) The  
 1-26 office shall establish and maintain an electronic database that  
 1-27 contains personal injury or wrongful death settlement agreements  
 1-28 for which a minor or incapacitated person is the beneficiary. A  
 1-29 party to the agreement or a guardian, next friend, or guardian ad  
 1-30 litem may record the agreement in the database. Only one copy of an  
 1-31 agreement may be filed by the parties or the guardian, next friend,  
 1-32 or guardian ad litem in each settlement agreement.

1-33 (b) A settlement agreement recorded in the database is  
 1-34 confidential, and the office shall ensure that a settlement  
 1-35 agreement may be accessed only by:

1-36 (1) the parties to the settlement agreement;  
 1-37 (2) each attorney representing a party to the  
 1-38 settlement agreement; or

1-39 (3) the guardian, next friend, or guardian ad litem of  
 1-40 a party to the settlement agreement.

1-41 (c) The office may set and collect a fee to record a  
 1-42 settlement agreement in the database in an amount sufficient to  
 1-43 cover the costs of maintaining the agreement in the database, not to  
 1-44 exceed \$50 for each agreement.

1-45 (d) Any fee to record a settlement agreement in the database  
 1-46 established by the office as provided by Subsection (c) is a court  
 1-47 cost to be included for payment in the settlement agreement.

1-48 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to a  
 1-49 suit filed on behalf of a minor or incapacitated person that is  
 1-50 pending in a trial court on the effective date of this Act or that is  
 1-51 filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

1-52 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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