

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Special Master on Claim Bills

SB 8 — Relief of Marcus Button by the Pasco County School Board

by Senator Simon

The bill authorizes and directs the Pasco County School Board (PCSB) to appropriate from funds of the school board not otherwise encumbered and pay \$1 million to a trust for the sole and exclusive benefit of Marcus Button as compensation for harms and losses he sustained due to the negligence of an employee of the PCSB in a vehicle crash that occurred on September 22, 2006, between a PCSB school bus and the vehicle in which Marcus Button was a passenger.

The bill also authorizes and directs the PCSB to appropriate \$200,000 to Robin Button, as the surviving parent and natural guardian of Marcus Button, as compensation for harms and losses sustained by her and Mark Button, now deceased, for the injuries to Marcus Button. The PCSB did not appeal the trial court judgment ordering the PCSB to pay \$1,380,967.39 to Marcus Button and \$289,396.85 to his parents. The PCSB has paid \$163,000 of the \$200,000 statutory limit applicable at the time the claim arose, to Marcus Button and to his parents. The parties have agreed to a total settlement in the amount of \$1.2 million to relieve, forever and completely, the PCSB of any and all further responsibility regarding the vehicle crash.

The total amount paid for attorney fees relating to this claim may not exceed 25 percent of the total amounts awarded under this bill.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 35-0; House 116-0

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CS/SB 10 — Relief of Sidney Holmes by the State of Florida

by Judiciary Committee and Senator Pizzo

Sidney Holmes was 22 years old when he was wrongfully arrested. He was alleged to have participated in an armed robbery in Broward County. Based on the now-discounted eyewitness testimony of one person, and despite the testimony of numerous alibi witnesses, he was wrongfully convicted of the charge and sentenced to 400 years in state prison. It took longer than 34 years for him to prove his innocence and be released from prison. Because he had a prior criminal record, he was ineligible for compensation under the statutory process for compensation for wrongful incarceration. This claim bill authorizes the payment of the statutory annual compensation of just over \$1.7 million plus the waiver of tuition and fees of up to 120 credit hours at any state college or university. His attorneys and representatives graciously waived all professional fees.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 112-0

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SB 14 — Relief of the Estate of Peniel Janvier by the City of Miami Beach
by Senator Jones

The bill directs the City of Miami Beach to pay the Estate of Peniel Janvier the sum of \$1.7 million as compensation for injuries and damages sustained due to the negligence of the City.

The bill authorizes and directs the City of Miami Beach to appropriate the funds from resources not otherwise encumbered and to draw a warrant in the amount of \$1.7 million, payable to the Estate of Peniel Janvier. This amount is in addition to the \$300,000 previously paid pursuant to s. 768.28, F.S., for a total settlement of \$2 million.

The amount awarded under the bill and previously paid, is intended to provide the sole compensation for all present and future claims arising from the incident. The total amount paid for attorney fees may not exceed 25 percent of the amount awarded under the bill.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 115-0

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SB 20 — Relief of J.N., a Minor, by Hillsborough County

by Senator Burgess

The bill authorizes and directs Hillsborough County to appropriate funds from the county not otherwise unencumbered and pay \$400,000 to J.N., a minor, to be placed in a trust for the exclusive use by J.N. for injuries and damages.

The county failed to properly repair a slab of concrete owned and operated by Hillsborough County. This negligent act caused J.N. to suffer severe facial trauma resulting in fractures, multiple surgeries, and the need for future medical care.

Attorney fees may not exceed 25 percent of the total amount awarded under the bill.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 36-1; House 113-0

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CS/SB 22 — Relief of Eric Miles, Jr., and Jennifer Miles by the South Broward Hospital District

by Rules Committee and Senator Rodriguez

The bill authorizes and directs the South Broward Hospital District, d/b/a Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, to appropriate otherwise unencumbered funds of the district and pay \$200,000 to the co-personal representatives of E.E.M., Eric Miles, Jr., and Jennifer Miles.

The hospital's medical staff failed to properly evaluate, diagnose, and treat E.E.M.'s small bowel obstruction. These negligent acts caused E.E.M. to suffer many significant and life-altering injuries, which ultimately led to his death.

Attorney fees may not exceed 25 percent of the total amount awarded under the bill.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 35-0; House 114-0

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CS/SB 26 — Relief of Kristen and Lia McIntosh by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

by Judiciary Committee and Senator Gruters

The bill appropriates \$2.252 million from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the relief of Kristen and Lia McIntosh for injuries and damages sustained due to the negligence of an employee of the department's Law Enforcement Division. The bill directs the Chief Financial Officer to pay \$1.001 million of such funds to Kristen McIntosh and \$1.251 million to Elizabeth Thornton, as parent and natural guardian of Lia McIntosh, a minor child. The funds for Lia McIntosh must be placed in a trust created for her exclusive use and benefit.

The attorney fees may not exceed 25 percent of the total amount awarded under the bill.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 112-0

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CS/SB 28 — Relief of Darline Angervil and J.R. by the South Broward Hospital District

by Health Policy Committee and Senator Martin

This is an uncontested claim bill for local funds in the amount of \$6,100,000, payable from unencumbered funds of the South Broward Hospital District. The bill is based on a settlement agreement between Darline Angervil and the Hospital District. The settlement agreement resolved a civil action that arose from the alleged negligence of the Hospital District that caused injuries to Darline Angervil and her child, J.R., a minor. The bill provides that \$3.1 million is payable to Darline Angervil and \$3.0 million is payable to an irrevocable trust created for the exclusive use and benefit of J.R.

The bill provides that the total amount paid for attorney fees relating to this claim may not exceed 25 percent of the total amount awarded under the bill.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 34-0; House 116-0

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HB 6503 — Relief of Mande Penney-Lemmon by Sarasota County

by Rep. Nix

This bill authorizes and directs Sarasota County to appropriate from funds of the county not otherwise encumbered and pay Mande Penney-Lemmon \$2.2 million. Ms. Penney-Lemmon was injured due to the negligence of an employee of Sarasota County.

The attorney fee may not exceed 25 percent of the total amount awarded under the bill.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 35-0; House 116-0

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HB 6521 — Relief of Jacob Rodgers by the City of Gainesville

by Rep. Weinberger (SB 96 by Senator Bernard)

The bill authorizes and directs the City of Gainesville to appropriate from funds of the city not otherwise encumbered and pay Jacob Rodgers \$10.8 million. Mr. Rodgers was injured due to the negligence of an employee of the City of Gainesville.

The attorney fee may not exceed 25 percent of the total amount awarded under the bill.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 36-0; House 113-0