

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2020 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Special Master on Claim Bills

SB 28 — Relief of Clifford Williams by the State of Florida

by Senators Gibson and Bradley

The bill provides \$2,150,000 from the General Revenue Fund to an irrevocable trust for Clifford Williams as relief for his 43 years of wrongful incarceration. Additionally, the bill waives tuition and fees for Clifford Williams for up to 120 hours of instruction at a career center, Florida College System institution, or state university.

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

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 116-0

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2020 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Special Master on Claim Bills

CS/CS/HB 6501 — Relief of Dontrell Stephens by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

by Judiciary Committee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; and Representatives Fernandez-Barquin and Joseph (CS/SB 4 by Judiciary Committee and Senator Flores)

The bill authorizes and directs the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office to draw a warrant for \$4,500,000 as relief for injuries and damages sustained by Dontrell Stephens as a result of an officer-involved shooting. Of this amount, \$3,375,000 is payable to Evett L. Simmons (guardian of the property of Dontrell Stephens) for the future care of Dontrell Stephens, and as compensation for injuries and damages, attorney fees, lobbying fees, and costs.

Additionally, the bill notes the intent of the Legislature to waive liens, excluding the federal portions of any liens, and makes the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office responsible for up to an additional \$1,500,000 of such liens.

Attorney fees are limited to 25 percent of the amount awarded.

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

Vote: Senate 37-2; House 116-0