

By Senators Crist, Meadows, Williams, Bronson, Cowin, Harris, Horne, Diaz-Balart, Lee, Gutman, Ostalkiewicz and Turner

20-1148-98

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the state's lawsuit against  
3           tobacco companies; providing a limitation on  
4           attorney's fees; providing for distribution of  
5           attorney's fees received from tobacco  
6           companies; providing an effective date.

8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10           Section 1. (1) An attorney who represented the state  
11 in its lawsuit against tobacco companies may not be paid  
12 attorney's fees that exceed \$250 per hour per attorney. The  
13 maximum fee that such attorney may receive is \$250,000.

14           (2) Attorney's fees paid by tobacco companies over and  
15 above \$3 million, the maximum allowed under subsection (1),  
16 must instead be paid into the General Revenue Fund of the  
17 state and earmarked for annual classroom teacher salary  
18 bonuses.

19           (3) It is the intent of the Legislature that the \$2.8  
20 billion attorney's fees in the tobacco lawsuit be reduced to a  
21 maximum of \$3 million with the remaining balance of \$2.797  
22 billion to be awarded on an equal basis to classroom teachers  
23 of the state as an annual salary bonus.

24           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
25 law.

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28 SENATE SUMMARY

29 Limits attorney's fees in the state's lawsuit against  
30 tobacco companies to a maximum of \$3 million. Provides  
31 that attorney's fees paid in such lawsuit which exceed \$3  
million must be used to provide annual salary bonuses for  
classroom teachers.