

STORAGE NAME: h3029a.cjc
DATE: March 17, 1998

**Florida House of Representatives
Committee on Civil Justice & Claims
Summary Claim Bill Reports**

Bill #: HB 3029
Sponsor(s): Representative Thrasher
Reference: Civil Justice & Claims
Companion Bill(s): SB 36 by Senator Horne

A. Basic Information

1. **Claimant:** Carrie Wilson
2. **Respondent:** Duval County School Board
3. **Amount Requested:** Original Bill Amount - \$1,685,657
Settlement Amount - \$1,150,000
4. **Type of Claim:** EXCESS JUDGMENT/SETTLEMENT
5. **Respondent's Posture:** The School Board has agreed to the settlement.
6. **Collateral Sources:** None apparent.
7. **Prior Legislative History:** None.

B. Procedural Summary: A lawsuit was filed in August of 1992. Three years later, after a one-week trial, the jury returned a verdict in favor of the claimant for \$2,500,000, assigning 100% of the fault to the School Board. The trial judge reduced the jury's verdict (reducing the mother's claim of loss of consortium from \$500,000 to \$126,000) and entered a judgment in the amount of \$1,885,657. The First District Court of Appeal affirmed the jury's verdict and judgment. The School Board has paid its statutory limit of \$200,000. A claim bill was filed, and during the claim bill process, the parties agreed to a reduced claim bill for Carrie Wilson in the amount of \$1,150,000 to be paid in four equal annual installments.

C. Facts of the Case: Carrie Wilson was 14 years old when her left leg and foot was severely injured when an exterior glass door panel at her school shattered as she was attempting to hold the door open with her foot. The accident happened on the first day back from Christmas break. During the holidays, the School District had knowingly failed to install safety glass, as required by law and their own rules, but had instead installed regular plate glass. Ms. Wilson's injury is permanent and has resulted in severe disfigurement, loss of muscle, and reduction in use of the leg due to restricted circulation.

SM: _____ **LRD:** _____ **Date:** February 25, 1998
Richard Hixson Richard Hixson