

By the Committee on Civil Justice & Claims and  
Representatives Ritter and Rodriguez-Chomat

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Dade County; providing for  
3           the relief of Jeanette Alonso, a minor, for  
4           injuries sustained as a result of the conduct  
5           of the Public Health Trust of Dade County,  
6           d.b.a. Jackson Memorial Hospital; providing for  
7           payment by the Public Health Trust of Dade  
8           County, d.b.a. Jackson Memorial Hospital;  
9           specifying use of the funds; providing an  
10          effective date.  
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12          WHEREAS, on September 13, 1990, two-week-old Jeanette  
13          Alonso was taken by her mother to Jackson Memorial Hospital  
14          for care and treatment of an infection, and  
15          WHEREAS, Jeanette Alonso was admitted with a diagnosis  
16          of "rule out sepsis," and  
17          WHEREAS, Jeanette Alonso, while a patient in Jackson  
18          Memorial Hospital, suffered from documented hyponatremia or  
19          low blood-sodium levels for prolonged periods of time and from  
20          uncontrolled and untreated seizures, and  
21          WHEREAS, Jeanette Alonso has suffered irreversible  
22          brain damage, including partial brain death and cortical  
23          blindness, and requires constant care and supervision, and  
24          WHEREAS, on November 20, 1992, a complaint was filed on  
25          behalf of Jeanette Alonso in Circuit Court for Dade County,  
26          Case Number 92-21466 CA 01-03, and  
27          WHEREAS, on July 22, 1997, a Final Agreed Judgment was  
28          entered by the Circuit Court in the amount of \$4,000,000, and  
29          WHEREAS, Jackson Memorial Hospital has paid to Jeanette  
30          Alonso's legal representatives and court-appointed guardian of  
31          her property the sum of \$200,000, and

1           WHEREAS, the Public Health Trust of Dade County, d.b.a.  
2 Jackson Memorial Hospital, and Jeanette Alonso, through her  
3 legal representatives, have agreed to the passage of this  
4 claim bill for \$3,800,000, which represents the remaining  
5 amount of the claim, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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9           Section 1. The facts stated in the preamble to this  
10 act are found and declared to be true.

11           Section 2. The Public Health Trust of Dade County,  
12 d.b.a. Jackson Memorial Hospital, is authorized and directed  
13 to appropriate from funds of the Public Health Trust not  
14 otherwise appropriated and to draw a warrant in the sum of  
15 \$3,800,000, payable to the court-appointed guardian of the  
16 property of Jeanette Alonso and her legal representatives, to  
17 compensate her for the injuries and damages she suffered.  
18 After payment of statutory attorney fees and costs, the  
19 balance shall be paid into the existing Special Needs Trust  
20 Fund established for Jeanette Alonso. Notwithstanding the  
21 provisions of s. 409.910, Florida Statutes, the lien provided  
22 therein shall be in accordance with the terms of the existing  
23 Special Needs Trust Fund.

24           Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
25 law.

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