

**STORAGE NAME:** HB 653a.cjc  
**DATE:** April 17, 1997

**Florida House Of Representatives**  
**Committee on Civil Justice & Claims**  
**Summary Claim Bill Report**

**Bill #:** HB 653

**Sponsor(s):** Representative's Lawson and Turnbull

**References:** Civil Justice & Claims;

**Companion Bill(s):** SB 1504

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**A. Basic Information**

- 1. Claimant:** Dena Sheryl Steels
- 2. Respondent:** City of Tallahassee  
Leon County School Board
- 3. Amount Requested:** \$200,000
- 4. Type of Claim:** SETTLEMENT of excess judgment claim
- 5. Respondent's Posture:** Both respondents concur in claim
- 6. Collateral Sources:** None apparent
- 7. Prior Legislative History:** None

**B. Procedure Summary:** The claimant filed a wrongful death claim against the City of Tallahassee and the Leon County School Board seeking damages resulting from the death of her eight year-old son in June 1992. The case went to circuit court mediation on April 18, 1996. As a result of mediation, the parties entered into a Settlement Agreement for a total amount of \$400,000, of which the parties have paid \$150,000 to the claimant and \$50,000 to the decedent's father. The parties further agreed to submit the remaining excess \$200,000 of the settlement to the Legislature for approval of a claim bill. Each respondent agreed to pay \$100,000 in satisfaction of the claim.

**C. Facts of the Case:** On June 12, 1992, claimant's son Kenny Pyles, then age eight, was playing with a group of children on the grounds of the Belle Vue Middle School in Tallahassee, Florida. The children were playing in an area where water had collected after a rain storm over a drainage culvert that was not covered by a grate. Kenny Pyles was sucked into the culvert by an under-current created by the drainage of the rainwater. Kenny Pyles was dragged several hundred feet into the drainage system and drowned.

**Legislative Research Specialist:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** April 17, 1997

Richard Hixson