

By the Committee on Claims and Representatives Rayson,
Suarez and Hill

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to St. Johns County; providing
3 for the relief of William D. Mock and Susan G.
4 Mock; providing for an appropriation to
5 compensate them for injuries sustained as a
6 result of the negligence of St. Johns County;
7 providing an effective date.

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9 WHEREAS, on the afternoon of March 29, 1997, Bill Mock
10 was riding his motorcycle south on AIA near the Jacksonville
11 beaches, and

12 WHEREAS, while riding his motorcycle in a lawful
13 manner, Bill Mock entered and proceeded through an
14 intersection on a green light, and

15 WHEREAS, unbeknownst to Bill Mock, a St. Johns County
16 ambulance traveling in the opposite direction made a left turn
17 at the same intersection, across four lanes of oncoming
18 traffic, and

19 WHEREAS, when the ambulance driver saw Bill Mock, he
20 stopped, causing Bill Mock's motorcycle to crash into the left
21 side of the 9000 lb. ambulance truck, and

22 WHEREAS, under federal, state, and county emergency
23 vehicle operation procedures, emergency vehicles are
24 prohibited from making a left-hand turn in front of oncoming
25 traffic until the emergency vehicle driver makes eye contact
26 with the other driver and the other driver yields, and

27 WHEREAS, at the scene of the accident, Bill Mock was
28 transported via Life Flight helicopter to University Medical
29 Center where he was hospitalized in the intensive care unit
30 for over two weeks, and

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1 WHEREAS, Bill Mock continued his hospitalization for an
2 additional six weeks at the Genesis Rehabilitation Center for
3 comprehensive inpatient brain injury rehabilitation, and
4 WHEREAS, Bill Mock suffered numerous permanent injuries
5 and disfigurement, including brain damage, loss of sense of
6 smell and taste, blindness in one eye, fractured skull,
7 fractured neck and back, broken collar bone, fractured jaw,
8 fractured shoulder, and shattered left face, and
9 WHEREAS, Bill Mock's medical bills exceed \$194,000, and
10 WHEREAS, as a result of his injuries, Bill Mock was
11 unable to continue his employment with the employment
12 consulting firm for which he served as Vice President, and
13 WHEREAS, although Bill Mock continues to work in his
14 field, doing business out of his home, he cannot operate at
15 the executive level where he previously functioned and his
16 yearly income has been reduced by more than 60 percent, and
17 WHEREAS, due to his physical and mental limitations,
18 Bill Mock and his wife, Susan Mock, can no longer enjoy the
19 activities they once enjoyed, and
20 WHEREAS, in order to pay their bills and make ends
21 meet, the Mocks have had to deplete all of their retirement
22 savings and their financial picture is bleak, and
23 WHEREAS, a lawsuit was filed against St. Johns County
24 on November 12, 1997, and
25 WHEREAS, one month prior to trial, a stipulated
26 settlement was reached in which St. Johns County agreed to pay
27 Bill Mock and Susan Mock a total of \$360,000 to settle this
28 dispute, and
29 WHEREAS, St. Johns County has paid \$190,000 to Bill
30 Mock and Susan Mock, pursuant to the limits of liability set
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1 forth in s. 768.28, Florida Statutes, and agrees to support a
2 claim bill in the amount of \$170,000, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

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9 Section 2. St. Johns County is authorized and directed
10 to appropriate from funds of the county not otherwise
11 appropriated and to draw a warrant in the sum of \$170,000
12 payable to William D. Mock and Susan G. Mock as compensation
13 for injuries sustained due to the negligence of St. Johns
14 County.

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Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 1999.

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