

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

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to Palm Beach County; providing  
for the relief of Elizabeth Menendez; providing  
for an appropriation to compensate Elizabeth  
Menendez for injuries and damages sustained as  
a result of the negligence of the Palm Beach  
County Sheriff's Department; providing an  
effective date.

WHEREAS, in the early morning hours of July 4, 1990,  
Elizabeth Menendez, then 22 years of age, was operating a  
motor vehicle on the highways of Palm Beach County, and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Menendez was attempting to make a  
left turn at Southern Boulevard and I-95 with the intention of  
going onto the southbound ramp and proceeding to her residence  
in Palm Springs, and

WHEREAS, at that time, a vehicle being pursued by the  
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department at speeds of  
approximately 100 miles per hour struck the vehicle which  
Elizabeth Menendez was operating, and

WHEREAS, in the resulting head-on collision, Elizabeth  
Menendez sustained serious and permanent injuries, and

WHEREAS, the injuries sustained by Elizabeth Menendez  
as a result of the accident that occurred on July 4, 1990,  
formed the basis of legal action against the Palm Beach County  
Sheriff's Department, and

WHEREAS, on October 21, 1998, in the Circuit Court of  
the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Palm Beach County,  
Carlos Menendez and Teresita Menendez, as guardians of  
Elizabeth Menendez, entered into a settlement agreement with  
the Sheriff of Palm Beach County, Case No. CL 93-2544 AO, and

1           WHEREAS, the Sheriff of Palm Beach County has paid  
2 \$100,000 to Carlos and Teresita Menendez, as legal guardians  
3 of Elizabeth Menendez, for the use and benefit of Elizabeth  
4 Menendez, pursuant to the terms of the settlement agreement,  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, the Sheriff of Palm Beach County actively  
7 supports the passage by the Florida Legislature of a relief  
8 act in the amount of \$2,400,000 on behalf of Carlos Menendez  
9 and Teresita Menendez, as legal guardians of Elizabeth  
10 Menendez, for the use and benefit of Elizabeth Menendez, NOW,  
11 THEREFORE,

12  
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

17           Section 2. The Sheriff of Palm Beach County is  
18 authorized and directed to appropriate from funds of the  
19 sheriff's department not otherwise appropriated and to draw a  
20 warrant in the sum of \$2,400,000 payable to Carlos Menendez  
21 and Teresita Menendez, as legal guardians of Elizabeth  
22 Menendez, for the use and benefit of Elizabeth Menendez, to  
23 compensate Elizabeth Menendez for injuries and damages  
24 sustained.

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