

By Representative Sorensen

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to natural disaster relief;  
3           providing relief to the Monroe County School  
4           District for certain declared natural  
5           disasters; holding the school district harmless  
6           with respect to its 1998-1999 FEFP  
7           appropriation; providing an appropriation to  
8           cover the costs of certain expenses related to  
9           recovery efforts; providing an effective date.  
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11           WHEREAS, Monroe County suffered three natural disasters  
12           in 1998, the Groundhog Day tornadoes in February, Hurricane  
13           Georges in September, and Tropical Storm Mitch in November,  
14           each of which was declared a natural disaster by the President  
15           of the United States, and  
16           WHEREAS, the Monroe County district schools serve  
17           children and adults throughout the county, and  
18           WHEREAS, the Monroe County district schools have  
19           endured damages to the physical plant facilities expected to  
20           exceed \$10 million, and  
21           WHEREAS, the Monroe County district schools are  
22           currently anticipating a loss of 350 to 400 students from the  
23           student enrollment estimate approved by the Legislature for  
24           the 1998-1999 school year, and  
25           WHEREAS, this loss of students translates into the  
26           potential loss of \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million from the  
27           current year's operating budget, and  
28           WHEREAS, no school district is in a position to  
29           maintain services and recovery efforts from such natural  
30           disasters without some financial relief and assistance, NOW,  
31           THEREFORE,

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

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3           Section 1. The Monroe County School District shall be  
4 held harmless with respect to its FEFP appropriation for  
5 fiscal year 1998-1999, notwithstanding any change in estimated  
6 enrollment in the district for that fiscal year resulting from  
7 the three natural disasters that affected Monroe County in  
8 1998, which were presidentially declared natural disasters and  
9 which consisted of the Groundhog Day tornadoes in February,  
10 Hurricane Georges in September, and Tropical Storm Mitch in  
11 November of that year.

12           Section 2. There is hereby appropriated from the  
13 General Revenue Fund to the Monroe County School District an  
14 amount sufficient to cover expenses resulting from insurance  
15 deductibles, insurance depreciation, payment for items not  
16 covered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other  
17 demonstrated losses such as instructional materials and  
18 overtime personnel costs required of recovery efforts  
19 necessitated by the natural disasters listed in section 1 that  
20 affected Monroe County in 1998.

21           Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
22 law.

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25 HOUSE SUMMARY

26 Provides relief to the Monroe County School District for  
27 natural disasters that affected Monroe County in 1998.  
28 Holds the school district harmless with respect to its  
29 1998-1999 FEFP appropriation and provides an  
30 appropriation to cover the costs of certain expenses  
31 related to recovery efforts. See bill for details.