By the Committee on Education/K-12 and Representative Sorensen $\,$

A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to natural disaster relief; 3 providing relief to the Monroe County School District for certain declared natural 4 5 disasters; holding the school district harmless with respect to its 1998-1999 FEFP 6 7 appropriation; providing an appropriation to 8 cover the costs of certain expenses related to 9 recovery efforts; providing an effective date. 10 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, each of which was declared a natural disaster by the President 14 of the United States, and 15 16 WHEREAS, the Monroe County district schools serve children and adults throughout the county, and 17 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 student enrollment estimate approved by the Legislature for 23 the 1998-1999 school year, and 24 WHEREAS, this loss of students translates into the 25 26 potential loss of \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million from the 27 current year's operating budget, and

WHEREAS, no school district is in a position to maintain services and recovery efforts from such natural disasters without some financial relief and assistance, NOW, THEREFORE,

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 2 3 Section 1. The Monroe County School District shall be 4 held harmless with respect to its FEFP appropriation for fiscal year 1998-1999, notwithstanding any change in 5 6 enrollment relative to the estimated enrollment in the 7 district for that fiscal year resulting from the three natural 8 disasters that affected Monroe County in 1998, which were 9 presidentially declared natural disasters and which consisted of the Groundhog Day tornadoes in February, Hurricane Georges 10 11 in September, and Tropical Storm Mitch in November of that 12 year. 13 Section 2. There is hereby appropriated from the 14 General Revenue Fund to the Monroe County School District the 15 sum of \$1.8 million for fiscal year 1999-2000 to cover 16 expenses resulting from insurance deductibles, insurance 17 depreciation, payment for items not covered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other demonstrated losses 18 19 such as facilities damage, instructional materials, and 20 overtime personnel costs required of recovery efforts 21 necessitated by the natural disasters listed in section 1 that 22 affected Monroe County in 1998. 23 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a 24 law. 25 26 27 28 29 30

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