

By the Committee on Claims and Representatives Cantens and Rayson

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 A1A 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 2 weeks, and

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1           WHEREAS, Bill Mock continued his hospitalization for an  
2 additional 6 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  
31 forth in section 768.28, Florida Statutes, and agrees to

1 support a claim bill in the amount of \$170,000, NOW,  
2 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, 2000.

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