

By Representative Ritter

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the City of Coral Springs;  
3           providing for the relief of Helene Rippe;  
4           providing for an appropriation to compensate  
5           her for personal injuries suffered due to the  
6           negligence of the city; providing an effective  
7           date.

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9           WHEREAS, Helene Rippe was attending a Little League  
10   game at Mullins Park, a multi-recreational facility owned and  
11   operated by the City of Coral Springs, when she was struck  
12   squarely in the middle of her face with a hard-hit foul ball,  
13   was knocked unconscious, and suffered extensive injuries,  
14   which necessitated two surgeries and resulted in the loss of  
15   her job, and

16           WHEREAS, when Helene Rippe was struck, she was watching  
17   the game from a spot in front of the players' benches and  
18   behind a fence that is 4 feet high, although she had  
19   previously been watching from the bleachers, which are behind  
20   an 8-foot-high fence, and

21           WHEREAS, Helene Rippe sued the city, alleging  
22   negligence, and the jury concluded that the city should have  
23   anticipated spectator injury despite the obviousness of the  
24   danger, that the city had constructive knowledge of the  
25   existence of a dangerous condition and therefore had a duty to  
26   correct the condition, and that the city was 40 percent at  
27   fault for Mrs. Rippe's injuries, and

28           WHEREAS, a final judgment in the amount of \$130,000 was  
29   entered in favor of Helene Rippe, of which the city has paid  
30   \$100,000, the maximum amount allowable under section 768.28,  
31   Florida Statutes, and

1           WHEREAS, the amount remaining under the judgment is  
2 \$30,000, which may be paid only through the passage of a claim  
3 bill, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

9           Section 2. The City of Coral Springs is authorized and  
10 directed to appropriate from funds of the city not otherwise  
11 appropriated and to draw a warrant in the amount of \$30,000  
12 payable to Helene Rippe as compensation for injuries and  
13 damages sustained.

14           Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
15 law.