

By Representative Fields

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Palm Beach County; providing
3 for the relief of Lawrence Douglas Bigney;
4 authorizing and directing the Sheriff's Office
5 of Palm Beach County to compensate him for
6 personal injuries suffered due to the unlawful
7 acts of an employee of the sheriff's office;
8 providing an effective date.

9
10 WHEREAS, on January 28, 1998, Lawrence Douglas Bigney
11 was operating his motorcycle westbound on Southern Boulevard
12 in West Palm Beach, when a sheriff's deputy, who was operating
13 a vehicle owned by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office,
14 unlawfully failed to yield the right-of-way and pulled into
15 the path of Lawrence Douglas Bigney's motorcycle, and

16 WHEREAS, Lawrence Douglas Bigney was seriously injured
17 as a result of this action, suffering severe compound
18 comminuted fractures of the right distal tibia-fibula, which
19 nearly resulted in the amputation of his right lower
20 extremity, and

21 WHEREAS, as a result of the accident of January 28,
22 1998, Lawrence Douglas Bigney was repeatedly hospitalized and
23 underwent surgery four times between January 28, 1998, and
24 April 21, 1999, and

25 WHEREAS, Lawrence Douglas Bigney was totally disabled
26 from working until approximately June 1999, and at that time,
27 although he was released by his doctor to return to light-duty
28 work, he was unable to return to his former employment as a
29 police/public-safety officer and fire inspector for the Town
30 of South Palm Beach, a job he had held for the 4 years prior
31 to this accident, and

1 WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and
2 Lawrence Douglas Bigney have entered into a settlement
3 agreement, under which the sheriff's office has paid Lawrence
4 Douglas Bigney \$100,000, the statutory limit under section
5 768.28, Florida Statutes, and

6 WHEREAS, the parties to this action have entered into
7 an agreement that Lawrence Douglas Bigney will submit a claim
8 bill in the amount of \$75,000, and that the Sheriff's Office
9 of Palm Beach County will neither support nor object to the
10 bill, NOW, THEREFORE,

11
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13
14 Section 1. The facts stated in the preamble to this
15 act are found and declared to be true.

16 Section 2. The Sheriff's Office of Palm Beach County
17 is authorized and directed to appropriate from funds of the
18 sheriff's office not otherwise appropriated and to draw a
19 warrant in the sum of \$75,000 payable to Lawrence Douglas
20 Bigney to compensate him for injuries and damages sustained.

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