

By Senator Sullivan

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Pinellas County School Board; providing for the relief of Jane Doe, a minor; authorizing and directing the District School Board of Pinellas County to compensate her for personal injuries suffered due to the negligence of the school board; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, on January 4, 1990, Jane Doe, an 11-year-old 6th-grade student in Pinellas County, Florida, was raped by a 14-year-old 8th-grade student inside the school that both attended, and

WHEREAS, Miss Doe's teacher had sent Miss Doe to the outside parking lot of the school for the purpose of rolling down the teacher's car windows, and

WHEREAS, Miss Doe was inside the school, returning to her class, when she was accosted, and

WHEREAS, there was no security in the school halls during class time, nor was there security in the parking lot, and

WHEREAS, the 14-year-old perpetrator had been appointed as a student assistant and allowed to roam the halls, despite the fact that his grades were too poor to meet the standards set for that position and the fact that, prior to this incident, both adults and students at the school had reported that the perpetrator had exhibited other inappropriate sexual behavior, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the rape, Miss Doe suffers from post-traumatic-stress syndrome, nightmares, and headaches,

1 has become withdrawn and unable to fully socialize with
2 others, and has needed and continues to need counseling, and
3 WHEREAS, in August 1998, a Pinellas County jury found
4 that the District School Board of Pinellas County was
5 negligent in this matter and awarded \$600,000 in damages to
6 Miss Doe and \$50,000 to her mother and \$50,000 to her father,
7 and

8 WHEREAS, a final judgment in that amount was entered,
9 the school board appealed, and the Second District Court of
10 Appeal affirmed the final judgment, per curiam, and

11 WHEREAS, the school board has paid the parents' claims
12 and has also paid \$100,000 to Miss Doe, leaving an unpaid
13 amount of \$500,000 owed to Miss Doe under the judgment, NOW,
14 THEREFORE,

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

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

20 Section 2. The District School Board of Pinellas
21 County is authorized and directed to compensate Jane Doe, a
22 minor, in the amount of \$500,000 for injuries and damages
23 sustained due to the negligence of the school board, out of
24 funds of the District School Board of Pinellas County not
25 otherwise appropriated.

26 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
27 law.

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