

By Senator Campbell

33-47-01

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 authorizing and directing the City of Coral
5 Springs to compensate her for personal injuries
6 she suffered due to the negligence of the city;
7 providing an effective 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 she was struck, she was watching the game
17 from a spot in front of the players' benches and behind a
18 fence that is 4 feet high, although she had previously been
19 watching from the bleachers, which are behind an 8-foot-high
20 fence, and

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

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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 compensate Helene Rippe in the amount of \$30,000,
11 out of funds of the city not otherwise appropriated, for
12 injuries and damages she sustained due to the negligence of
13 the city.

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