

By Senator Campbell

33-65-01

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Martin County; providing for
3 the relief of Margaret B. Helm for injuries and
4 damages caused by the negligence of the Martin
5 County Volunteer Fire Department; specifying
6 the use of funds appropriated; providing an
7 effective date.
8
9 WHEREAS, on March 21, 1999, Veronica Pochopin was
10 driving at or near County Road 707 (Dixie Highway) at Jenson
11 Beach in Martin County, Florida, when an intoxicated bicyclist
12 rode into the path of her motor vehicle and was struck by Mrs.
13 Pochopin, and
14 WHEREAS, Margaret B. Helm, a passing motorist, stopped
15 to assist Mrs. Pochopin, and
16 WHEREAS, Margaret B. Helm, Mrs. Pochopin, and Mrs.
17 Pochopin's husband, who was a passenger in the vehicle, were
18 sitting behind the damaged vehicle while Margaret B. Helm was
19 attempting to care for Mrs. Pochopin, and
20 WHEREAS, while the Martin County volunteer firefighters
21 were attempting to extricate the body of the intoxicated
22 bicyclist from the front seat of the damaged vehicle, where it
23 had landed after coming through the windshield, the vehicle
24 went into reverse running over Margaret B. Helm, and
25 WHEREAS, as a result of this incident, Margaret B. Helm
26 is now a paraplegic and is expected to remain so for the rest
27 of her life, and
28 WHEREAS, Margaret B. Helm and Martin County have
29 entered into a settlement agreement that requires Martin
30 County to pay, pursuant to a claim bill enacted by the
31

1 Legislature, the sum of \$2,250,000, with \$500,000 of this sum
2 to be paid in the form of an annuity, and

3 WHEREAS, the payment will not involve any tax increase
4 in Martin County for the sole purpose of paying the amounts
5 agreed to in the settlement agreement, NOW, THEREFORE,

6

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

8

9 Section 1. The facts stated in the preamble of this
10 act are found and declared to be true.

11 Section 2. Martin County is directed to compensate
12 Margaret B. Helm for injuries and damages caused by the
13 negligence of the Martin County Volunteer Fire Department in
14 the amount of \$2,250,000, consisting of a lump-sum payment of
15 \$1,750,000 and \$500,000 in the form of an annuity.

16 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
17 law.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31