

By Representative Bullard

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Miami-Dade County; providing  
3           for the relief of Hilda De Paz; authorizing and  
4           directing Miami-Dade County to compensate Hilda  
5           De Paz for injuries suffered due to the  
6           negligence of county employees; providing an  
7           effective date.

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9           WHEREAS, on May 23, 1995, Hilda De Paz was on her way  
10          to her job as a housekeeper and was a passenger on a Metro  
11          Transit Authority bus that carelessly rear-ended another Metro  
12          bus, on Collins Avenue near 44th Street in Miami Beach, and

13                 WHEREAS, Hilda De Paz initially was in critical  
14          condition as a result of the multiple traumas she suffered  
15          from the accident of May 23, 1995, and the injuries she  
16          incurred in the accident have substantially affected her life,  
17          so that she has a 12-percent impairment disability, as rated  
18          on the Florida Impairment Rating Guide, and she is no longer  
19          able to perform any work, needs future medical care, and  
20          cannot do any heavy lifting, bending, or strenuous activities,  
21          and

22                 WHEREAS, to date, Hilda De Paz has received no  
23          compensation, and her medical bills are still outstanding, and

24                 WHEREAS, in order to satisfy the claims of other  
25          injured bus passengers, Miami-Dade County has already paid a  
26          total of \$200,000, the maximum amount allowable under section  
27          768.28, Florida Statutes, leaving no funds available to  
28          compensate Hilda De Paz, and

29                 WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County wishes to provide for the  
30          past and future medical bills of Hilda De Paz and to  
31          compensate her for lost wages and lost earning ability, and

1           WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County and Hilda De Paz agreed to  
2 settle this case, and an Agreed Final Judgment was entered on  
3 May 25, 2000, awarding Hilda De Paz a total of \$60,000 plus  
4 interest, and

5           WHEREAS, in order for the Agreed Final Judgment to take  
6 effect, a claim bill that incorporates the terms of the  
7 agreed-upon final judgment must be enacted, NOW, THEREFORE,

8  
9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

13           Section 2. Miami-Dade County is authorized and  
14 directed to appropriate from funds of the county not otherwise  
15 appropriated and to draw a warrant in the sum of \$60,000  
16 payable to Hilda De Paz as compensation for injuries and  
17 damages sustained.

18           Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
19 law.