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An act relating to the North Broward Hospital District; providing for the relief of Mark Schwartz, a minor, for injuries sustained as a result of the negligence of employees of the Coral Springs Medical Center; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, on April 29, 1997, Lori Schwartz, who was nine months pregnant and in labor, presented herself at the Coral Springs Medical Center, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Schwartz was admitted to the hospital, where her difficult labor continued for many hours, and

WHEREAS, the nurses who cared for Ms. Schwartz during her labor were aware of the difficulties of the labor and of the indication of fetal distress, and

WHEREAS, the nurses caring for Ms. Schwartz during her labor failed to assess the situation and communicate the difficulties of the labor and the fetal distress to the obstetrician in a timely manner, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the nurses' failure to timely assess the situation and timely notify the physician of the fetal distress, Ms. Schwartz's baby, Mark Schwartz, suffered anoxic encephalopathy during deliver, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the lack of oxygen during his birth, Mark Schwartz suffers from serious and irreversible brain damage, which has left him profoundly disabled with severe cognitive and motor dysfunction necessitating full-time care for the rest of his life, and

WHEREAS, a lawsuit was filed against the North Broward Hospital District and others for compensation, and

1           WHEREAS, during the litigation but before trial, the  
2 parties reached a settlement, and

3           WHEREAS, pursuant to the settlement, the North Broward  
4 Hospital District has agreed to pay a total of \$600,000 to  
5 compensate Mark Schwartz for his injuries, and

6           WHEREAS, the hospital district has paid \$200,000,  
7 pursuant to section 768.28, Florida Statutes, and agrees to  
8 affirmatively support a claim bill in the amount of \$400,000,  
9 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

15           Section 2. The North Broward Hospital District is  
16 directed to compensate Lori Schwartz and Larry Schwartz as  
17 parents and legal guardians of Mark Schwartz, a minor, in the  
18 amount of \$400,000 for injuries and damages caused by the  
19 negligence of the district, such payment to be made out of the  
20 district's Self Insured Trust. After payment of statutory  
21 attorney's fees and costs, the balance shall be paid into the  
22 guardianship account established for Mark Schwartz.

23           Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
24 law.

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