

By Senator Jones

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to Miami-Dade County; providing for the relief of Hilda De Paz; authorizing and directing Miami-Dade County to compensate Hilda De Paz for personal injuries she suffered due to the negligence of county employees; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County wishes to provide for the past and future medical bills of Miss De Paz and to 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 Miss 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,

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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 amount of \$60,000,
16 which amount includes statutory attorney's fees and costs,
17 payable to Hilda de Paz for injuries and damages she sustained
18 as a result of the negligence of a county employee. The
19 payment shall be made within 30 days after the effective date
20 of this act.

21 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
22 law.