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An act relating to Palm Beach County; providing for the relief of Lawrence Douglas Bigney; authorizing and directing the Sheriff's Office of Palm Beach County to compensate him for personal injuries suffered due to the unlawful acts of an employee of the sheriff's office; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, on January 28, 1998, Lawrence Douglas Bigney was operating his motorcycle westbound on Southern Boulevard in West Palm Beach when a sheriff's deputy, who was operating a vehicle owned by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, unlawfully failed to yield the right-of-way and pulled into the path of Mr. Bigney's motorcycle, and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Bigney was seriously injured as a result of this action: he had severe compound comminuted fractures of the right distal tibia-fibula, which nearly resulted in the amputation of his right lower extremity; and he was repeatedly hospitalized and underwent surgery four times between January 28, 1998, and April 21, 1999, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bigney was totally disabled and unable to work until approximately June 1999, and at that time, although he was released by his doctor to return to light-duty work, he was unable to return to his former employment as a police/public-safety officer and fire inspector for the Town of South Palm Beach, a job he had held for the 4 years prior to this accident, and

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and Mr. Bigney have entered into a settlement agreement under which

1 the sheriff's office has paid Mr. Bigney \$100,000, the
2 statutory limit under section 768.28, Florida Statutes, and
3 WHEREAS, the parties to this action have entered into
4 an agreement that Lawrence Bigney will submit a claim bill in
5 the amount of \$75,000, and that the sheriff's office will
6 neither support nor object to the bill, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

12 Section 2. The Sheriff's Office of Palm Beach County
13 is authorized and directed to appropriate from funds of the
14 sheriff's office not otherwise appropriated and to draw a
15 warrant payable to Lawrence Douglas Bigney in the amount of
16 \$75,000 for injuries and damages sustained as a result of the
17 unlawful acts of an employee of the sheriff's office.

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