

By Senator Campbell

33-121-02

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A bill to be entitled

An act for the relief of Laura D. Strazza;
providing an appropriation to compensate her
for injuries she sustained as a result of the
negligence of an employee of the Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services; providing an
effective date.

WHEREAS, on April 25, 1996, Laura D. Strazza was riding
as a passenger in a motor vehicle on U.S. 1 in Juno Beach,
Palm Beach County, and

WHEREAS, an employee of the Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry, was operating, on
and next to that highway, a large transport truck that
collided with the motor vehicle in which Laura D. Strazza was
a passenger, and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of this motor-vehicle crash,
Laura D. Strazza sustained multiple grievous injuries such
that she has been unable to work, has undergone surgical
procedures, and needs to undergo future surgical procedures,
and

WHEREAS, a legal action was brought by Laura Strazza, a
single woman, against the Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services, and

WHEREAS, on July 13, 1999, a jury rendered a verdict in
favor of Laura D. Strazza, finding that the Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services was partly negligent in
causing a motor-vehicle crash between the vehicle in which Ms.
Strazza was riding as a passenger and the department's
transport truck, and

1 WHEREAS, the jury rendered damages in the amount of
2 \$1,464,000, and, after reduction for collateral sources and
3 comparative negligence of the driver of the vehicle in which
4 Ms. Strazza was riding, a Final Judgment in the amount of
5 \$944,829 and a Cost Judgment in the amount of \$32,490.62, both
6 bearing interest at the statutory rate of 10 percent per year,
7 were entered against the Department of Agriculture and
8 Consumer Services, and

9 WHEREAS, after the Department of Agriculture and
10 Consumer Services pays Laura Strazza \$100,000, the maximum
11 amount allowable under section 768.28, Florida Statutes, the
12 remainder owed under the judgment will be \$877,319.62, NOW,
13 THEREFORE,

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

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

19 Section 2. There is appropriated from the General
20 Revenue Fund to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
21 Services the sum of \$877,319.62 plus accrued interest at 10
22 percent per annum for the relief of Laura D. Strazza for
23 injuries and damages sustained by her.

24 Section 3. The Comptroller is directed to draw a
25 warrant in favor of Laura D. Strazza in the amount of
26 \$877.319.62 plus accrued interest at the rate of 10 percent
27 per annum since _____, upon funds of the
28 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in the State
29 Treasury, and the State Treasurer is directed to pay the same
30 out of such funds in the State Treasury.

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1 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
2 law.

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5 SENATE SUMMARY

6 Providing an appropriation for the relief of Laura D.
7 Strazza for injuries and damages she sustained as a
8 result of the negligence of an employee of the Department
9 of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

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