

By Representative Meadows

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Escambia County; providing
3 for the relief of Bronwen Dodd; authorizing and
4 directing the District School Board of Escambia
5 County to compensate Bronwen Dodd for personal
6 injuries that she suffered due to the
7 negligence of an employee of the Escambia
8 County School Board; providing an effective
9 date.

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11 WHEREAS, on the afternoon of March 24, 1997, an
12 accident involving an automobile and a school bus occurred at
13 the intersection of Summit Boulevard and Goya Drive in
14 Escambia County, and

15 WHEREAS, on the afternoon of March 24, 1997, Bronwen
16 Dodd was driving a 1988 Honda east on Summit Boulevard, and a
17 driver employed by the Escambia County School Board was
18 driving a school bus west on Summit Boulevard, and

19 WHEREAS, the driver of the school bus had stopped and
20 turned left in order to go south on Goya Drive, and

21 WHEREAS, as the school bus was turning south onto Goya
22 Drive, it struck Bronwen Dodd's Honda, causing that vehicle to
23 collide with another car that was stopped on Goya Drive, and

24 WHEREAS, a court subsequently found that the school bus
25 driver had violated the right-of-way in making the turn, and

26 WHEREAS, as a result of the accident, Bronwen Dodd
27 suffered severe injuries, including: a closed-head injury
28 (with loss of consciousness); basilar skull, temporal, and
29 sinus fractures; a fractured mandible; cranial nerve injury;
30 significant dental injuries with multiple avulsions of her
31 left incisor, her left medial incisor, maxillary teeth, and

1 canines; bilateral pneumothoraces; a punctured lower lip; a
2 lacerated tongue; multiple lacerations to her arm, face, and
3 lower extremities; and optical and auditory damage, and

4 WHEREAS, those injuries necessitated extensive medical
5 treatment, rehabilitation, and restorative treatments, and

6 WHEREAS, litigation relating to this accident was begun
7 and, on May 21, 1999, a final judgment in the amount of
8 \$340,999.75 was entered against the Escambia County School
9 Board, and

10 WHEREAS, after two unsuccessful attempts at mediation,
11 both parties agreed to participate in binding arbitration,
12 which took place on December 18, 2000, and

13 WHEREAS, on December 20, 2000, the arbitration panel
14 awarded Bronwen Dodd \$275,000, which did not include any award
15 for past medical expenses, and

16 WHEREAS, after the arbitrators assessed 20 percent
17 negligence to Bronwen Dodd, her award was reduced to \$220,000,
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the school board will pay to Bronwen Dodd the
20 sum of \$100,000, pursuant to the limits set forth in section
21 768.28, Florida Statutes, and Bronwen Dodd is, therefore,
22 petitioning the Legislature for further reimbursement in the
23 amount of \$240,999.75, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

29 Section 2. The District School Board of Escambia
30 County is authorized and directed to appropriate from funds of
31 the county not otherwise appropriated and to draw a warrant in

1 the amount of \$240,999.75, which amount includes statutory
2 attorney's fees and costs, payable to Bronwen Dodd as
3 compensation for injuries and damages sustained by Bronwen
4 Dodd as a result of the negligence of an employee of the
5 Escambia County School Board. Such amount shall be paid in
6 addition to the \$100,000 payable pursuant to section 768.28,
7 Florida Statutes.

8 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
9 law.

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