



HB 1693

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A bill to be entitled  
 An act relating to the Hillsborough County School Board;  
 providing for the relief of Alana Kelly and Richard F.  
 Taylor, Sr.; providing for an appropriation to compensate  
 them for the death of their son, Richard F. Taylor, Jr.,  
 caused by the negligence of a Hillsborough County School  
 Board employee; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, on April 24, 1998, 21-year-old Richard F. Taylor,  
 Jr., was driving his motorcycle in a lawful manner heading south  
 on U.S. 301 in Hillsborough County, and

WHEREAS, at the same time, a Hillsborough County school bus  
 operated by a driver employed by the Hillsborough County School  
 Board pulled out from a stop sign and attempted to cross the  
 southbound lanes of U.S. 301 directly in the path of Richard  
 Taylor's motorcycle, and

WHEREAS, although Mr. Taylor attempted to stop his  
 motorcycle from colliding with the bus, he was unable to do so,  
 and

WHEREAS, as a result of the collision of the school bus  
 with his motorcycle, Mr. Taylor suffered trauma to the head and  
 was pronounced dead at the scene, and

WHEREAS, an eyewitness to the accident observed the school  
 bus pull out in front of the motorcycle in violation of the  
 motorcycle's right-of-way, observed Mr. Taylor's attempt to  
 stop, and observed the collision, and

WHEREAS, Richard F. Taylor, Jr., was survived by his  
 mother, Alana Kelly, and his father, Richard F. Taylor, Sr., who  
 have lost their only son and their only child, and



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30 WHEREAS, a lawsuit was filed against the Hillsborough  
31 County School Board for the wrongful death of Richard F. Taylor,  
32 Jr., and

33 WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the trial, the jury found the  
34 school board 75 percent at fault for the death of Richard F.  
35 Taylor, Jr., and entered a verdict for \$402,444, and

36 WHEREAS, after proper reductions for comparative fault, the  
37 judge entered a final judgment in favor of the claimants for a  
38 total of \$301,833, and

39 WHEREAS, the school board did not appeal the verdict and  
40 judgment, and

41 WHEREAS, the school board has paid \$200,000 to the  
42 claimants pursuant to the limits of liability set forth in  
43 section 768.28, Florida Statutes, leaving an unpaid judgment  
44 amount of \$101,833, NOW, THEREFORE,

45

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

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

50 Section 2. The Hillsborough County School Board is  
51 authorized and directed to appropriate from funds of the school  
52 board not otherwise appropriated and to draw a warrant in the  
53 sum of \$50,000, which amount includes statutory attorney's fees  
54 and costs, payable to Alana Kelly as compensation for the death  
55 of her son, Richard F. Taylor, Jr., due to the negligence of an  
56 employee of the Hillsborough County School Board.

57 Section 3. The Hillsborough County School Board is  
58 authorized and directed to appropriate from funds of the school  
59 board not otherwise appropriated and to draw a warrant in the



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60 sum of \$51,833, which amount includes statutory attorney's fees  
61 and costs, payable to Richard F. Taylor, Sr., as compensation  
62 for the death of his son, Richard F. Taylor, Jr., due to the  
63 negligence of the Hillsborough County School Board.

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