

By Senator Crist

12-30A-03

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Hillsborough County;  
3           providing for the relief of James T. Edwards  
4           for injuries suffered as a result of negligence  
5           by the county; providing an effective date.  
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7           WHEREAS, in an incident occurring on May 31, 1997,  
8 James T. Edwards was severely and permanently injured as a  
9 result of the negligence of Hillsborough County, in that the  
10 county failed to immobilize Edwards' head, neck, and spine  
11 while transporting Edwards to the hospital, and  
12           WHEREAS, as a result of that negligence, James T.  
13 Edwards sustained injuries to his spinal cord which have  
14 resulted in complete and permanent paralysis to his legs, and  
15           WHEREAS, James T. Edwards instituted a lawsuit against  
16 Hillsborough County as a result of such injuries, which  
17 lawsuit was scheduled to be tried beginning August 5, 2002,  
18 and  
19           WHEREAS, before commencement of the trial, James T.  
20 Edwards and Hillsborough County entered into a settlement  
21 agreement in the amount of \$2,500,000 under which the county  
22 would pay to Edwards \$100,000 and support the passage of a  
23 claim bill to provide for payment of the balance of the  
24 settlement amount, NOW, THEREFORE,  
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26 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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28           Section 1. The facts stated in the preamble to this  
29 act are found and declared to be true.  
30           Section 2. The Hillsborough County Board of County  
31 Commissioners is authorized and directed to appropriate from

1 funds of the county not otherwise appropriated, and to draw a  
2 warrant in the sum of, \$2,400,000, which amount includes  
3 statutory attorney's fees and costs, payable to James T.  
4 Edwards as compensation for injuries suffered by him as a  
5 result of the negligence of Hillsborough County.

6 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
7 law.

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