

By Senator Diaz de la Portilla

36-15-03

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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

1 WHEREAS, a lawsuit was filed against the Hillsborough
2 County School Board for the wrongful death of Richard F.
3 Taylor, Jr., and

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

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

10 WHEREAS, the school board did not appeal the verdict
11 and judgment, and

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

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

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

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

29 Section 3. The Hillsborough County School Board is
30 authorized and directed to appropriate from funds of the
31 school board not otherwise appropriated and to draw a warrant

1 in the sum of \$51,833, which amount includes statutory
2 attorney's fees and costs, payable to Richard F. Taylor, Sr.,
3 as compensation for the death of his son, Richard F. Taylor,
4 Jr., due to the negligence of the Hillsborough County School
5 Board.

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

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