



HB 0727

2003

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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to Escambia County; providing for the relief of Bronwen Dodd; authorizing and directing the District School Board of Escambia County to compensate Bronwen Dodd for personal injuries that she suffered due to the negligence of an employee of the school board; providing for attorney's fees and costs; providing an effective date.

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

WHEREAS, Bronwen Dodd was driving a 1988 Honda eastwardly on Summit Boulevard, and a driver employed by the Escambia County School Board was driving a school bus westwardly on Summit Boulevard, and

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

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

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

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



HB 0727

2003

31 pneumothoraces; a punctured lower lip; a lacerated tongue;
 32 multiple lacerations to her arm, face, and lower extremities;
 33 and optical and auditory damage, and

34 WHEREAS, those injuries necessitated extensive medical
 35 treatment, rehabilitation, and restorative treatments, and

36 WHEREAS, litigation relating to this accident was begun
 37 and, after two unsuccessful attempts at mediation, both parties
 38 agreed to participate in binding arbitration, which took place
 39 on December 18, 2000, and

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

43 WHEREAS, after the arbitrators assessed 20 percent
 44 negligence to Bronwen Dodd, her award was reduced to \$220,000,
 45 and

46 WHEREAS, a final judgment in the amount of \$340,999.75 was
 47 entered against the Escambia County School Board on May 21,
 48 1999, and

49 WHEREAS, the Escambia County School Board will pay to
 50 Bronwen Dodd the sum of \$100,000, which is the statutory limit
 51 pursuant to s. 768.28, Florida Statutes, and Bronwen Dodd is,
 52 therefore, petitioning the Legislature for further reimbursement
 53 in the amount of \$240,999.75, NOW, THEREFORE,

54
 55 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

56
 57 Section 1. The facts stated in the preamble to this act
 58 are found and declared to be true.

59 Section 2. The District School Board of Escambia County is
 60 authorized and directed to appropriate from funds of the county



HB 0727

2003

61 not otherwise appropriated and to draw a warrant in the amount
62 of \$240,999.75, which amount includes statutory attorney's fees
63 and costs, payable to Bronwen Dodd as compensation for injuries
64 and damages sustained as a result of the negligence of an
65 employee of the school board.

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