



HB 0817

2003

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to Hillsborough County; providing for the
3 relief of James T. Edwards; providing for an appropriation
4 to compensate him for injuries suffered as a result of the
5 negligence of Hillsborough County; providing an effective
6 date.

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8 WHEREAS, in an incident occurring on May 31, 1997, James T.
9 Edwards was severely and permanently injured as a result of the
10 negligence of Hillsborough County, in that the county failed to
11 immobilize James T. Edwards' head, neck, and spine while
12 transporting him to the hospital, and

13 WHEREAS, as a result of that negligence, James T. Edwards
14 sustained injuries to his spinal cord which have resulted in
15 complete and permanent paralysis to his legs, and

16 WHEREAS, James T. Edwards instituted a lawsuit against
17 Hillsborough County as a result of such injuries, which lawsuit
18 was scheduled to be tried beginning August 5, 2002, and

19 WHEREAS, before commencement of the trial, James T. Edwards
20 and Hillsborough County entered into a settlement agreement in
21 the amount of \$2,500,000 under which the county would pay to
22 Edwards \$100,000 and support the passage of a claim bill to
23 provide for payment of the balance of the settlement amount,
24 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 act
29 are found and declared to be true.



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30 Section 2. The Hillsborough County Board of County
31 Commissioners is authorized and directed to appropriate from
32 funds of the county not otherwise appropriated and to draw a
33 warrant in the sum of \$2,400,000, which amount includes
34 statutory attorney's fees and costs, payable to James T. Edwards
35 as compensation for injuries suffered as a result of the
36 negligence of Hillsborough County.

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