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

9
 10 WHEREAS, on the afternoon of March 24, 1997, an accident
 11 involving an automobile and a school bus occurred at the
 12 intersection of Summit Boulevard and Goya Drive in Escambia
 13 County, and

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

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

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

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

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

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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 2001, and

49 WHEREAS, the Escambia County School Board has paid 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
 53 reimbursement 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

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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.