HB 0135 2005

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to street lighting; creating s. 768.1382, F.S.; limiting liability for certain public and private entities providing street lights, security lights, or other similar illumination; providing that certain entities do not owe duty to the public to provide, operate, or maintain illumination; providing for exceptions; prohibiting certain findings of fault or responsibility of an entity not a party to litigation; providing for severability; providing for application; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 768.1382, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

768.1382 Street lights and other similar illumination; limitation on liability.--Neither the state, any of the state's officers, agencies, or instrumentalities, any political subdivision, as defined in s. 1.01, nor any electric utility, as defined in s. 366.02(2), that provides, operates, or maintains street lights, security lights, or other similar illumination shall be held liable for any civil damages for injury or death affected or caused by the adequacy or failure of illumination of such lights, regardless of whether the adequacy or failure of illumination is alleged or demonstrated to have contributed in any manner to the injury or death, unless such liability was expressly assumed by written contract. No such entity that

HB 0135 2005

provides, operates, or maintains a manner of illumination as described in this section owes a duty to the public to provide, operate, or maintain the illumination in any manner, except that such a duty may be expressly assumed by written contract. In any civil action for damages arising out of personal injury or wrongful death when an entity's fault regarding the maintenance of street lights is at issue, if the entity responsible for maintaining the street lights is not a party to the litigation, the entity shall not be deemed or found in such action to be in any way at fault or responsible for the injury or death that gave rise to the damages.

Section 2. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared severable.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law and shall apply to causes of action that accrue on or after the effective date.