

By Senator Bennett

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Southwest Florida Water Management District; providing for the relief of Mark Vandebøe for injuries sustained due to the negligence of an employee of the Southwest Florida Water Management District; providing for payment of damages; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, on October 4, 2001, at approximately 5:10 p.m., Mark Vandebøe was driving on a county road in Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida, and

WHEREAS, Malcolm Hudson, an employee of the Southwest Florida Regional Management District had just driven back onto the roadway and was approaching Mr. Vandebøe's vehicle, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hudson plowed his large truck into the right side of Mr. Vandebøe's vehicle, causing more than \$10,000 worth of damage to that vehicle and inflicting multiple permanent injuries upon Mr. Vandebøe, and

WHEREAS, The Florida Highway Patrol charged Mr. Hudson with violating the right-of-way, contrary to section 316.21, Florida Statutes, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vandebøe lost consciousness as a result of the collision and has suffered permanent injuries that include debilitating headaches; multiple herniated discs in his neck, necessitating a complex surgery to fuse his vertebrae; multiple injuries to his lower back, for which he underwent a second surgery; severe injuries to both of his wrists, for which he must wear braces for the rest of his life; and severe clinical depression, and

1 WHEREAS, before this tragic wreck, Mr. Vandebroe was a
2 productive member of society and worked as a truck driver, but
3 now he can no longer work in that capacity, and

4 WHEREAS, due to the auto accident caused by the water
5 management district's employee, Mark Vandebroe has so far
6 incurred medical bills that total more than \$110,000, and he
7 will require significant future medical care, and

8 WHEREAS, on November 20, 2003, a jury found that the
9 Southwest Florida Water Management District was liable for Mr.
10 Vandebroe's injuries and returned a verdict awarding Mr.
11 Vandebroe the sum of \$268,326.68, of which \$85,564.62 has been
12 paid, leaving a balance of \$182,762.06, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

18 Section 2. The Southwest Florida Water Management
19 District is authorized and directed to pay to Mark Vandebroe
20 out of insurance proceeds or out of moneys appropriated by the
21 district from funds of the district not otherwise encumbered
22 the sum of \$182,762.06 for injuries and damages sustained due
23 to the negligence of an employee of the district.

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