

HB 799

2006

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act for the relief of Norka Laureiro by Miami-Dade  
3 County; authorizing and directing Miami-Dade County to  
4 compensate Norka Laureiro for injuries sustained as a  
5 result of a collision caused by a Miami-Dade County bus;  
6 providing an effective date.  
7

8 WHEREAS, on March 25, 1998, Norka Laureiro was transporting  
9 children in a private school van when she approached an  
10 intersection, and

11 WHEREAS, a Miami-Dade County bus ran a stop sign at the  
12 intersection and collided with Ms. Laureiro's van, which caused  
13 serious injuries to Ms. Laureiro and several children, and

14 WHEREAS, the driver of the Miami-Dade County bus had a  
15 significant history of driving citations and safety violations,  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, as a result of the collision, Ms. Laureiro  
18 suffered a crushing blow to her head which caused bone and nerve  
19 damage and she underwent reconstructive surgery, and

20 WHEREAS, as a result of the collision, Ms. Laureiro has  
21 permanent numbness on the right side of her face due to damaged  
22 cranial nerves, and

23 WHEREAS, Ms. Laureiro also suffered permanent injury to her  
24 Achilles tendon, several fractures to her right leg, and a  
25 subtalar joint dislocation to her right foot which required two  
26 major orthopedic surgeries, and

27 WHEREAS, because of the extent of the break to and  
28 fragmentation of the bone in her foot, surgery could not achieve

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29 complete alignment, and

30 WHEREAS, due to the resulting extensive arthritis and  
31 progressive nature of her injury, Ms. Laureiro is unable to use  
32 her foot normally, will need additional surgeries in the future,  
33 experiences swelling of the foot, is in constant pain, and, as a  
34 result, limps when she walks, which causes additional pain in  
35 her hips, back, and legs, and

36 WHEREAS, since the accident, Ms. Laureiro has been under  
37 the care of a neurologist for the nerve damage to her foot, leg,  
38 and face and has also been on antidepressants since the  
39 collision, and

40 WHEREAS, before the accident, Ms. Laureiro owned her own  
41 business that involved driving children to and from school 5  
42 days a week, but due to the nature of her foot injury, she is  
43 unable to continue her driving business and has not worked since  
44 the accident, and

45 WHEREAS, on September 3, 2003, a jury from the Miami-Dade  
46 County Circuit Court returned a verdict in favor of Norka  
47 Laureiro in the sum of \$1,550,685.38 and \$50,000 in favor of  
48 Norka Laureiro's husband, Fredy Laureiro, for his loss of  
49 consortium, and

50 WHEREAS, Defendant Miami-Dade County appealed the verdict  
51 to the Third District Court of Appeal, and while the appeal was  
52 pending, the parties resubmitted the case to mediation and  
53 reached a settlement of \$1 million, and

54 WHEREAS, on March 29, 2005, the Circuit Court of the  
55 Eleventh Judicial Circuit issued a final consent judgment  
56 against Miami-Dade County in favor of Norka Laureiro in the sum

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57 of \$1 million, NOW, THEREFORE,

58

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

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

63 Section 2. Miami-Dade County is authorized and directed to  
64 appropriate from funds of the county not otherwise appropriated  
65 and to draw a warrant payable to Norka Laureiro in the amount of  
66 \$1 million for injuries and damages sustained due to the  
67 negligence of Miami-Dade County.

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