

HB 629

2007

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

HB 629

2007

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

HB 629

2007

57 of \$1 million, and

58 WHEREAS, \$900 has already been paid pursuant to the limits
59 of liability set forth in section 768.28, Florida Statutes, NOW,
60 THEREFORE,

61

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

63

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

66 Section 2. Miami-Dade County is authorized and directed to
67 appropriate from funds of the county not otherwise appropriated
68 and to draw a warrant payable to Norka Laureiro in the amount of
69 \$999,100 for injuries and damages she sustained due to the
70 negligence of Miami-Dade County.

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