816710

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate House

Comm: RCS 02/27/2012

The Committee on Rules (Smith) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete line 77

and insert:

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Ronnie Lopez and Roberto Guzman as co-personal

======== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =========

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 2 - 61

and insert:

An act for the relief of Ronnie Lopez and Roberto Guzman as co-personal representatives of the Estate of

Ana-Yency Velasquez, deceased, and for Ronnie Lopez,



Jr., Ashley Lorena Lopez-Velasquez, and Steven Robert Guzman, minor children of Ana-Yency Velasquez, by Miami-Dade County; providing for an appropriation to compensate the estate and the minor children for the death of Ana-Yency Velasquez as a result of the negligence of an employee of Miami-Dade County; providing a limitation on the payment of fees and costs; providing an effective date.

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WHEREAS, Ronnie Lopez, co-personal representative of the Estate of Ana-Yency Velasquez, deceased, is the father of Ronnie Lopez, Jr., age 5, and Ashley Lorena Lopez-Velasquez, age 4, and Ana-Yency Velasquez, deceased, was the mother of Ronnie Lopez, Jr., and Ashley Lorena Lopez-Velasquez, and

WHEREAS, Roberto Guzman, co-personal representative of the Estate of Ana-Yency Velasquez, deceased, is the father of minor child, Steven Robert Guzman, age 9, and Ana-Yency Velasquez, deceased, was the mother of Steven Robert Guzman, and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2009, a Miami-Dade County Police Officer, when driving his marked police unit through an intersection, failed to obey a posted stop sign and also did not engage his lights or sirens, and

WHEREAS, protocol for the Miami-Dade County Police Department requires that lights and sirens be engaged whenever any police vehicle is in pursuit of another vehicle, and

WHEREAS, s. 316.271, Florida Statutes, requires that sirens be engaged whenever an authorized emergency vehicle is responding to an emergency or in immediate pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, and

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WHEREAS, the vehicle driven by the Miami-Dade County police unit was in pursuit of a phantom speeding vehicle at the time of the collision, and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County police cruiser crashed into and broadsided the vehicle operated by Ana-Yency Velasquez, then 23 years of age and the mother of three minor children, at the intersection of N.W. 112th St. and N.W. 12th Ave., and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade County police cruiser operated by the officer struck the vehicle driven by Ana-Yency Velasquez with such force that her automobile crashed into the bedroom of a nearby residence, throwing debris from the automobile onto the roof of the residence, and

WHEREAS, Ana-Yency Velasquez was killed as a result of the negligence of an employee of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and

WHEREAS, mediation of the claims of this matter was held on November 17, 2010, and

WHEREAS, at mediation, Miami-Dade County acknowledged that the damages far exceeded the statutory limit of \$200,000 established under s. 768.28, Florida Statutes, and the representatives of Miami-Dade County agreed and entered into a Mediation Settlement Agreement, and