

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act for the relief of Ramiro Companioni, Jr., by
3 the City of Tampa; providing for an appropriation to
4 compensate Mr. Companioni for injuries sustained as a
5 result of the negligence of the City of Tampa;
6 providing a limitation on the payment of fees and
7 costs; extinguishing certain state and local
8 government lien interests; providing an effective
9 date.

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11 WHEREAS, on November 22, 1996, Ramiro Companioni, Jr., was
12 seriously injured while operating his motorcycle on East
13 Hillsborough Avenue in Tampa, Florida, as a result of a
14 collision with a City of Tampa Water Department truck, and

15 WHEREAS, a lawsuit was filed and in 2004 a final judgment
16 was entered in favor of Mr. Companioni in the amount of
17 \$17,928,800 against the City of Tampa, based on a jury verdict
18 in the amount of \$19,932,000, and

19 WHEREAS, after appeals and all legal remedies were
20 exhausted, claim bills have been filed annually since the 2014
21 Legislative session seeking the full amount of the final
22 judgment, plus interest, for Mr. Companioni, and

23 WHEREAS, the parties have agreed to a compromised
24 settlement in the amount of \$5 million, NOW, THEREFORE,
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26 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

27 |

28 | Section 1. The facts stated in the preamble to this act
 29 | are found and declared to be true.

30 | Section 2. The City of Tampa is authorized and directed to
 31 | appropriate from funds not otherwise encumbered and to draw a
 32 | warrant in the sum of \$5 million, to fund a special needs trust
 33 | created for the exclusive use and benefit of Ramiro Companioni,
 34 | Jr., as compensation for injuries and damages sustained as
 35 | described herein.

36 | Section 3. The amount paid by the City of Tampa pursuant
 37 | to s. 768.28, Florida Statutes, and the amount awarded under
 38 | this act are intended to provide the sole compensation for all
 39 | present and future claims arising out of the factual situation
 40 | described in this act which resulted in injuries and damages to
 41 | Mr. Companioni. Of the amount awarded under this act, the total
 42 | amount paid for attorney fees may not exceed \$850,000, the total
 43 | amount paid for lobbying fees may not exceed \$400,000, and the
 44 | total amount paid for costs and other similar expenses relating
 45 | to this claim may not exceed \$7,204.25.

46 | Section 4. It is the intent of the Legislature that the
 47 | state and local government lien interests relating to the
 48 | treatment and care of Ramiro Companioni, Jr., if any, are hereby
 49 | waived or extinguished.

50 | Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.