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26 WHEREAS, although Ms. Juettner slammed on the brakes, her  
27 car's left front struck the bus between the wheels and continued  
28 under the bus which crushed the car's right front and roof, and

29 WHEREAS, while Ms. Juettner suffered a knee and other minor  
30 injuries, Marcus Button, who was riding in the front passenger  
31 seat, sustained facial and skull fractures, brain damage, and  
32 bleeding and vision loss, and

33 WHEREAS, Mr. Kinne and his "relief" driver, Linda Bone,  
34 were the only people on the bus and were not seriously injured,  
35 and

36 WHEREAS, Marcus Button was airlifted to St. Joseph's  
37 Children's Hospital, where he spent three (3) weeks recovering,  
38 and then was transferred to Tampa General Hospital for  
39 rehabilitation for an additional six (6) weeks, and

40 WHEREAS, Marcus Button sustained severe, widespread  
41 neurologic systems damage, had to relearn how to walk and  
42 currently cannot walk for any substantial length of time without  
43 pain, lost the use of his right eye, cannot look up or down with  
44 his left eye, and suffered facial fractures that twisted and  
45 left his face badly disfigured with one side of his face higher  
46 than the other, and

47 WHEREAS, in addition, Marcus Button can no longer smell,  
48 has limited ability to taste, cannot feel textures, and, as a  
49 result of the brain damage from the crash, has severe  
50 hallucinations unless he takes psychotropic medications daily,

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51 and he sees and hears things that are not there, has spoken with  
52 a British or a Southern accent, has no short-term memory, has no  
53 ability of judgment for his safety, and is paranoid, and

54 WHEREAS, Marcus Button returned from the hospital in  
55 November 2006, but his mother, Robin Button, testified, "My son  
56 who woke up [in the hospital] was not the same son I gave birth  
57 to. He was, but he wasn't. It was him, his skin, but it wasn't  
58 him in his skin. Different kid. The son I knew is gone. He died  
59 on that day," and

60 WHEREAS, as the operator of a school bus, Mr. Kinne had the  
61 duty to drive the bus in a safe manner and in accordance with  
62 Florida law, but failed to do so, and the "relief" driver had a  
63 job duty to help Mr. Kinne, but failed to do so, and

64 WHEREAS, Mr. Kinne was later cited by the Florida Highway  
65 Patrol trooper for failing to yield the right-of-way to Ms.  
66 Juettner's car, and

67 WHEREAS, in 2007, Marcus Button's parents, Mark Button and  
68 Robin Button, sued the Pasco County School Board for the harms  
69 and losses caused by its negligence, and, during the subsequent  
70 trial, a pediatric rehabilitation doctor and a neuropsychologist  
71 testified unopposed that, because of the crash injuries, Marcus  
72 Button will require 24-hour care, counseling, interventions,  
73 medical care, and medications for the remainder of his life to  
74 cope with his physical symptoms and to control his psychotic and  
75 delusional behavior from the crash injuries, and that Marcus

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76 Button continues to suffer crash-related memory loss, has  
77 trouble sleeping, and struggles to concentrate and stay on task,  
78 and

79 WHEREAS, an expert economist who testified unopposed at  
80 trial estimated Marcus Button's future care will cost between  
81 \$6,000,000.00 and \$10,000,000.00 and his inability to work will  
82 result in the loss of between \$365,000.00 and \$570,000.00 in  
83 wages over his lifetime, and

84 WHEREAS, the trial court ordered the Pasco County School  
85 Board to pay final judgments of \$1,380,967.39 to Marcus Button  
86 plus accrued interest at 6 percent per annum beginning January  
87 21, 2010, and \$289,396.85 to Mark Button and Robin Button plus  
88 accrued interest at 6 percent per annum beginning January 21,  
89 2010, in addition to a cost judgement to Mark Button and Robin  
90 Button in the amount of \$48,405.72 plus accrued interest of 6  
91 percent per annum beginning April 27, 2010, and

92 WHEREAS, the Pasco County School Board has paid \$163,000 of  
93 the \$200,000 statutory limit applicable at the time the claim  
94 arose pursuant to s. 768.28, Florida Statutes 2009, to Marcus  
95 Button and to Mark Button and Robin Button, as parents and  
96 natural guardians of Marcus Button, as partial compensation for  
97 the harms and losses caused by the crash, and

98 WHEREAS, the pro rata share of the statutory limit pursuant  
99 to s. 768.28, Florida Statutes, paid to Marcus Button is  
100 \$134,752.10, but the balance of \$1,246,215.29 plus accrued

101 interest at 6 percent per annum since the judgment dated January  
 102 21, 2010, remains unpaid, and

103 WHEREAS, the pro rata share of the statutory limit pursuant  
 104 to s. 768.28, Florida Statutes, paid to Mark Button and Robin  
 105 Button is \$28,247.90, but the balance of \$261,148.95 plus  
 106 accrued interest at 6 percent per annum since the judgment dated  
 107 January 21, 2010, and costs pursuant to s. 57.041, Florida  
 108 Statutes, to Mark Button and Robin Button in the amount of  
 109 \$48,405.72 plus accrued interest of 6 percent per annum since  
 110 the judgment dated April 27, 2010, remain unpaid, and

111 WHEREAS, on the first day of the 2024 Regular Session,  
 112 January 9, 2024, the unpaid sum with interest ordered in the  
 113 judgment for Marcus Button will be \$2,291,192.42, and the unpaid  
 114 sum with interest ordered in the judgment for Mark Button and  
 115 Robin Button will be \$480,127.71, and the costs with interest  
 116 ordered in the cost judgment will be \$89,587.09 according to the  
 117 Pasco County Clerk's office payoff statement dated July 21,  
 118 2023, and

119 WHEREAS, since the judgments were entered, the Pasco County  
 120 School Board did not appeal these judgments, did not object to  
 121 the inclusion of interest in the judgments ordered by the judge,  
 122 has opposed bills ordering payment of any amounts ordered by the  
 123 judge, has refused to negotiate or participate in any  
 124 discussions until the 2024 Regular Session, and has not taken  
 125 steps to pay any part of these 13-year-old judgments entered by

126 | the judge after a full trial, NOW, THEREFORE,

127 |

128 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

129 |

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

132 |       Section 2. The Pasco County School Board is authorized and  
 133 | directed to appropriate from funds of the school board not  
 134 | otherwise encumbered and to draw a warrant in the sum of  
 135 | \$2,291,192.42 made payable to Marcus Button as compensation for  
 136 | harms and losses he sustained due to the negligence of employees  
 137 | of the Pasco County School Board.

138 |       Section 3. The Pasco County School Board is authorized and  
 139 | directed to appropriate from funds of the school board not  
 140 | otherwise encumbered and to draw a warrant in the sum of  
 141 | \$480,127.71 made payable to Mark Button and Robin Button, as  
 142 | parents and natural guardians of Marcus Button, as compensation  
 143 | for harms and losses sustained by them for injuries to Marcus  
 144 | Button in the September 22, 2006, crash which was due to the  
 145 | negligence of employees of the Pasco County School Board.

146 |       Section 4. The Pasco County School Board is authorized and  
 147 | directed to appropriate from funds of the school board not  
 148 | otherwise encumbered and to draw a warrant in the sum of  
 149 | \$89,587.09 made payable to Mark Button and Robin Button, as  
 150 | parents and natural guardians of Marcus Button, as compensation

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151 for the cost judgment from the trial about the September 22,  
152 2006, crash caused by the negligence of employees of the Pasco  
153 County School Board.

154 Section 5. The amount paid by the Pasco County School  
155 Board pursuant to s. 768.28, Florida Statutes 2009, and the  
156 amounts awarded under this act are intended to provide the sole  
157 compensation for all present and future claims arising out of  
158 the factual situation described in this act which resulted in  
159 injuries sustained by Marcus Button and his parents, Mark Button  
160 and Robin Button. The total amount paid for attorney fees may  
161 not exceed 25 percent of the total amounts awarded under this  
162 act.

163 Section 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.