

By Senator Rodriguez

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A bill to be entitled

An act for the relief of Jose Correa by Miami-Dade County; providing an appropriation to compensate Mr. Correa for injuries sustained as a result of the negligence of an employee of Miami-Dade County; providing a limitation on the payment of compensation and certain fees; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2021, Jose Correa was lawfully walking across Bird Road, SW 40th Street, within the marked crosswalk at the intersection of Bird Road and Le Jeune Road, SW 42nd Avenue, in Miami-Dade County, and

WHEREAS, a Miami-Dade County bus driver failed to observe Mr. Correa and made a left-hand turn at the intersection, causing a collision between the bus and Mr. Correa, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Correa has alleged, through a lawsuit filed on July 21, 2022, in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, that the negligence of Miami-Dade County, through its bus driver, was the proximate cause of Mr. Correa's injuries, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Correa suffered personal injuries resulting in significant pain and anguish, including a below-knee amputation, and will continue to suffer pain and anguish for the remainder of his life, and

WHEREAS, since the incident, Mr. Correa has incurred considerable medical care and treatment costs related to his injuries, and he will require such care and treatment for the remainder of his life, and

WHEREAS, following the filing of the lawsuit, Mr. Correa

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and Miami-Dade County reached a settlement agreement in the amount of \$4.3 million, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to that settlement agreement and the limits of liability set forth in s. 768.28, Florida Statutes, the settlement agreement has been partially satisfied by Miami-Dade County in the amount of \$200,000, and the satisfaction of the remainder is contingent upon the passage of a claim bill in the amount of \$4.1 million, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

Section 2. Miami-Dade County is authorized and directed to appropriate from funds not otherwise encumbered and to draw a warrant in the sum of \$4.1 million payable to Jose Correa as compensation for injuries and damages sustained.

Section 3. The amount paid by Miami-Dade County pursuant to s. 768.28, Florida Statutes, and the amount awarded under this act are intended to provide the sole compensation for all present and future claims arising out of the factual situation described in this act which resulted in injuries and damages to Jose Correa. The total amount paid for attorney fees and lobbying fees relating to this claim may not exceed 25 percent of the total amount awarded under this act.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.