

ENROLLED

HB 6515

2026 Legislature

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2       An act for the relief of Lourdes Latour and Edward  
3       Latour by Miami-Dade County; providing an  
4       appropriation to compensate Mr. and Mrs. Latour for  
5       injuries sustained as a result of the negligence of  
6       Miami-Dade County; providing a limitation on  
7       compensation and the payment of attorney fees;  
8       providing an effective date.  
9

10       WHEREAS, on November 5, 2017, Lourdes Latour sustained  
11       serious injuries when she was struck by a malfunctioning  
12       automatic gate arm while exiting the Gables by the Sea community  
13       on her bicycle in Miami-Dade County, and

14       WHEREAS, the automatic gate arm at the community exit  
15       malfunctioned, striking Lourdes Latour and throwing her from her  
16       bicycle, causing her to sustain permanent injuries, and

17       WHEREAS, Lourdes Latour and Edward Latour have alleged,  
18       through a lawsuit filed on November 21, 2018, that the  
19       negligence of Miami-Dade County in the ownership, operation,  
20       maintenance, and control of the subject exit gate was the  
21       proximate cause of the injuries sustained by Mrs. Latour, and

22       WHEREAS, the lawsuit proceeded to trial, and on January 16,  
23       2025, a jury returned a verdict in favor of Mr. and Mrs. Latour,  
24       finding Miami-Dade County 100 percent liable for the incident,  
25       and

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26           WHEREAS, the jury awarded Mrs. Latour \$4.75 million for her  
27 injuries and Mr. Latour \$165,000 for his loss of consortium, and

28           WHEREAS, Mrs. Latour has suffered significant pain and  
29 suffering, disability, physical impairment, disfigurement,  
30 mental anguish, inconvenience, and loss of capacity for  
31 enjoyment of life, and

32           WHEREAS, Mr. Latour has suffered loss of his wife's  
33 comfort, society, attention, and services, and

34           WHEREAS, following the verdict and entry of final judgment,  
35 Mr. and Mrs. Latour and Miami-Dade County reached a settlement  
36 in the amount of \$800,000, and

37           WHEREAS, pursuant to the settlement agreement between the  
38 parties, the plaintiffs' claim will be partially satisfied by  
39 Miami-Dade County paying the amount of \$300,000 to Mr. and Mrs.  
40 Latour, and

41           WHEREAS, pursuant to the settlement, Miami-Dade County  
42 supports and agrees that Mr. and Mrs. Latour should receive as  
43 compensation the remaining \$500,000 of the settlement amount,  
44 and their claim shall be considered fully satisfied by Miami-  
45 Dade County paying this \$500,000 to Mr. and Mrs. Latour, as  
46 authorized by the Florida Legislature through a claim bill, NOW,  
47 THEREFORE,

48  
49 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
50

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

53           Section 2. Miami-Dade County is authorized and directed to  
54 appropriate from funds not otherwise encumbered and to draw a  
55 warrant in the sum of \$500,000 payable to Lourdes Latour and  
56 Edward Latour as compensation for injuries and damages  
57 sustained.

58           Section 3. The amount paid by Miami-Dade County pursuant  
59 to s. 768.28, Florida Statutes, and the amount awarded under  
60 this act are intended to provide the sole compensation for all  
61 present and future claims arising out of the factual situation  
62 described in this act which resulted in injuries and damages to  
63 Lourdes Latour and Edward Latour. The total amount paid for  
64 attorney fees relating to this claim may not exceed 25 percent  
65 of the total amount awarded under this act.

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