

HB 457

2012

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act for the relief of Denise Gordon Brown and David
3 Brown by the North Broward Hospital District;
4 providing for an appropriation to compensate Denise
5 Gordon Brown and David Brown, parents of Darian Brown,
6 for injuries and damages sustained by Darian Brown as
7 result of the negligence of Broward General Medical
8 Center; providing a limitation on the payment of fees
9 and costs; providing an effective date.

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11 WHEREAS, on January 10, 2000, Denise Gordon Brown was
12 admitted as a high-risk obstetrical patient at Broward General
13 Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and

14 WHEREAS, Denise Gordon Brown's physicians at Broward
15 General Medical Center ordered continuous fetal monitoring, and

16 WHEREAS, on the evening of January 14, 2000, the fetal
17 monitoring showed significant risk to the fetus, and

18 WHEREAS, on January 15, 2000, the monitoring indicated
19 continued fetal tachycardia and loss of reactivity,
20 necessitating immediate delivery, and

21 WHEREAS, Denise Gordon Brown's unborn child, Darian Brown,
22 was not delivered immediately and sustained a hypoxic brain
23 injury as a result of the delay, and

24 WHEREAS, Denise Gordon Brown and David Brown, the parents
25 of Darian Brown, sought medical care and treatment that
26 determined that Darian Brown's condition is permanent, has
27 resulted in severe neurological damage, and requires a lifetime
28 of round-the-clock care and treatment, and

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29 WHEREAS, after a trial, a jury returned a verdict in favor
 30 of Denise Gordon Brown and David Brown, as parents and guardians
 31 of Darian Brown, in the amount of \$35,236,000, for the cost of
 32 care for Darian Brown, resulting in a final judgment, less
 33 setoffs and costs, in the amount of \$34,418,577, and

34 WHEREAS, the jury's verdict was affirmed on appeal, and

35 WHEREAS, pursuant to an agreement between the parties to
 36 the lawsuit, the judgment has been partially satisfied in the
 37 amount of \$10,550,000, and

38 WHEREAS, pursuant to the agreement, the claim shall be
 39 considered fully satisfied by the stipulation that the North
 40 Broward Hospital District will seek its self-insured retention
 41 in the amount of \$2 million as authorized by the Florida
 42 Legislature through a claim bill, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

48 Section 2. The sum of \$2 million is appropriated out of
 49 funds not otherwise encumbered for payment by the North Broward
 50 Hospital District for the relief of Denise Gordon Brown and
 51 David Brown, as guardians of Darian Brown, for injuries and
 52 damages sustained by Darian Brown due to the negligence of
 53 Broward General Medical Center.

54 Section 3. A warrant shall be drawn in favor of Denise
 55 Gordon Brown and David Brown, as guardians of Darian Brown, in
 56 the amount of \$2 million.

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57 Section 4. The amount paid pursuant to s. 768.28, Florida
58 Statutes, and the amount awarded under this act are intended to
59 provide the sole compensation for all present and future claims
60 arising out of the factual situation described in this act which
61 resulted in injuries sustained by Darian Brown. The total amount
62 paid for attorney's fees, lobbying fees, costs, and other
63 similar expenses relating to this claim may not exceed 25
64 percent of the total amount awarded under this act.

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