

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2020 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Special Master on Claim Bills

CS/CS/HB 6501 — Relief of Dontrell Stephens by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

by Judiciary Committee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; and Representatives Fernandez-Barquin and Joseph (CS/SB 4 by Judiciary Committee and Senator Flores)

The bill authorizes and directs the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office to draw a warrant for \$4,500,000 as relief for injuries and damages sustained by Dontrell Stephens as a result of an officer-involved shooting. Of this amount, \$3,375,000 is payable to Evett L. Simmons (guardian of the property of Dontrell Stephens) for the future care of Dontrell Stephens, and as compensation for injuries and damages, attorney fees, lobbying fees, and costs.

Additionally, the bill notes the intent of the Legislature to waive liens, excluding the federal portions of any liens, and makes the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office responsible for up to an additional \$1,500,000 of such liens.

Attorney fees are limited to 25 percent of the amount awarded.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 37-2; House 116-0