

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
2022 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED  
**Special Master on Claim Bills**

**CS/SB 58 — Relief of Yeilyn Quiroz Otero/Miami-Dade County**

by Judiciary Committee and Senator Rodriquez

This is a settled claim bill that awards \$3.8 million as compensation for severe injuries that claimant, Yeilyn Quiroz Otero, sustained in a 2016 automobile accident involving a Miami-Dade County police cruiser. The accident occurred at an intersection with inoperative traffic signals. The police cruiser collided at a high rate of speed with the vehicle in which the claimant was a passenger, leaving her a paraplegic. The claimant's proceeds, after attorney fees and costs, will be placed in a special needs trust for her benefit.

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

*Vote: Senate 35-2; House 116-0*

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**Special Master on Claim Bills**

**CS/SB 70 — Relief of Donna Catalano by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

by Appropriations Committee and Senators Rouson and Ausley

This bill satisfies a settled claim supported by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS). The bill appropriates the sum of \$3,175,000 from the General Inspection Trust Fund to the DACS and directs the Chief Financial Officer to draw a warrant from those sums in favor of the claimant, Donna Catalano. Under the bill, the total amount paid for attorney fees may not exceed \$635,000, the total amount paid for lobbying fees may not exceed \$158,750, and the total amount paid for costs or similar expenses may not exceed \$29,059.94.

The bill adopts the facts stated in the preamble, which explain that the claim arises from a head-on collision that occurred on June 26, 2019. Donald Gerard Burthe, was an employee of the DACS, operating a department vehicle during his employment. Mr. Burthe failed to maintain his lane of travel and crossed the center line of U.S. Highway 90, colliding with Ms. Catalano's vehicle. As a result, Ms. Catalano underwent six surgeries during the next four days, to repair various injuries. Ms. Catalano went on to spend approximately three months in a rehabilitation center and later continued physical therapy at home. Ms. Catalano can no longer perform her job as a nurse and was discharged from her employment with Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. She continues to suffer with immobility, chronic pain, mental anguish, stress, and anxiety.

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

*Vote: Senate 34-2; House 116-0*

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**CS/SB 74 — Relief of Harry Augustin Shumow by the Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County, d/b/a Jackson Memorial Hospital**

by Judiciary Committee and Senator Rodriguez

The bill authorizes and directs the Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County to draw a warrant for \$5,000,000 payable to the special-needs trust created for the exclusive use and benefit of Harry Augustin Shumow. This amount is compensation for injuries and damages sustained following a Jackson Memorial Hospital lab technician's negligence in failing to report a critical lab value, leading to undiagnosed anemia and subsequent cardiac arrest.

The attorney fee is limited to \$1,000,000, the lobbying fee will not exceed \$250,000, and the total amount paid for costs or other similar expenses will not exceed \$133,344.06.

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

*Vote: Senate 35-2; House 116-0*

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**Special Master on Claim Bills**

**CS/CS/SB 80 — Relief of Christeia Jones/Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles**

by Appropriations Committee; Judiciary Committee; and Senator Baxley

This bill resolves an uncontested claim for \$17,715,000, based on a mediation settlement agreement between the claimant, Christeia Jones, as parent and natural guardian of Logan Grant, Denard Maybin, Jr., and Lanard Maybin, and the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. The mediation settlement agreement resolved a civil action arising from the negligent operation of a Florida Highway Patrol vehicle which resulted in a crash and severe injuries to the children.

Under the bill, the sum of \$7.5 million is appropriated from the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles for the relief of Christeia Jones as compensation for injuries and damages sustained by her and her minor sons, Logan Grant, Denard Maybin, Jr., and Lanard Maybin. Further, the Chief Financial Officer is directed to draw a warrant in favor of Christeia Jones in the sum of \$7.5 million, minus payments required to satisfy outstanding Medicaid liens relating to the medical expenses and care of her and her minor sons, Logan Grant, Denard Maybin, Jr., and Lanard Maybin, upon funds of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles in the State Treasury and to pay the same out of such funds in the State Treasury.

The bill provides the amount paid by the Division of Risk Management of the Department of Financial Services pursuant to s. 768.28, F.S., and the amount awarded under the bill are intended to provide the sole compensation for all present and future claims arising out of the factual situation described in the bill which resulted in injuries and damages sustained by Christeia Jones and her minor sons, Logan Grant, Denard Maybin, Jr., and Lanard Maybin.

Of the amount awarded in the bill, the total amount paid for attorney fees may not exceed \$1.5 million, the total amount paid for lobbying fees may not exceed \$375,000, and the total amount paid for costs or other similar expenses may not exceed \$34,849.92.

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

*Vote: Senate 35-2; House 116-1*