

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
2023 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED  
**Special Master on Claim Bills**

**SB 2 — Relief of the Estate of Molly Parker/Department of Transportation**

by Senator Hooper

The bill satisfies a settled claim supported by the Florida Department of Transportation. The bill appropriates \$5.95 million from the State Transportation Trust Fund to the Department of Transportation and directs the Chief Financial Officer to pay such sum to the estate of Molly Parker. Ms. Parker died as a result of a vehicle crash with a negligently operated Department of Transportation dump truck.

The attorney fee is limited to \$1,119,000 and the lobbying fee will not exceed \$297,500.

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

*Vote: Senate 38-1; House 103-0*

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**SB 4 — Relief of Maria Garcia by the Pinellas County School Board**

by Senators Rouson and Book

Maria Garcia was a 41-year-old woman who suffered physical injuries on February 13, 2019, when she was struck by a school bus in Pinellas County, Florida. The bus was negligently operated by an employee of the Pinellas County School Board. Maria Garcia and the school board agreed to a consent judgment in the amount of \$3 million. Of the total amount sought and agreed to by Maria Garcia and the school board, the school board has paid the \$200,000 statutory cap to Maria Garcia. The bill authorizes and directs the school board to pay the remaining \$2.8 million.

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

*Vote: Senate 39-1; House 105-0*

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**SB 6 — Relief of the Estate of Jason Sanchez by Miami-Dade County**

by Senator Rodriguez

The bill provides relief to the estate of Jason Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez was in a fatal automobile accident where a bus driven by a Miami-Dade County employee negligently rolled through a stop sign causing a collision with the motorcycle operated by Mr. Sanchez. The claim was settled with Miami-Dade County for \$1.25 million of which \$300,000 has been paid in accordance with the state's sovereign immunity waiver. The bill authorizes and directs Miami-Dade County to pay the remaining \$950,000 to the estate of Mr. Sanchez.

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

*Vote: Senate 38-1; House 105-0*

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**SB 8 — Relief of Leonard Cure/State of Florida**

by Senators Jones and Thompson

This bill provides \$817,000 to be appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Financial Services for the relief of Leonard Cure for his 16 years of wrongful incarceration. Additionally, the bill waives tuition and fees for Leonard Cure for up to 120 hours of instruction at a career center, Florida College System Institution, or state university.

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

*Vote: Senate 39-1; House 104-0*

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**SB 10 — Relief of Kristin A. Stewart by Sarasota County**

by Senator Gruters

The bill authorizes and directs Sarasota County to draw a warrant in the sum of \$5,750,000 payable to Kristin A. Stewart as compensation for injuries and damages sustained in a motor vehicle accident resulting from the negligent operation of a Sarasota County vehicle by a Sarasota County employee. This sum is in addition to the \$200,000 already paid to Kristin A. Stewart pursuant to s. 768.28, F.S.

The attorney fee is limited to 25 percent of the first \$2,000,000 recovered and 20 percent of the amount recovered in excess of \$2,000,000. The lobbying fee will not exceed five percent of the amount recovered and the total amount paid for costs or other similar expenses will not exceed \$88,709.64.

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

*Vote: Senate 37-1; House 105-0*

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**CS/SB 12 — Relief of Ricardo Medrano-Arzate and Eva Chavez-Medrano as personal representatives of Hilda Medrano/Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office**

by Judiciary Committee and Senator Polsky

The bill awards \$1,200,000 to Ricardo Medrano-Arzate and Eva Chavez-Medrano, the parents of Hilda Medrano. Ms. Medrano was killed on December 1, 2013, by the negligence of an Okeechobee County Sheriff's deputy who was driving at speeds in excess of 90 miles per hour in an area that had a 35 miles per hour speed limit. At the time of the accident the deputy was not operating his vehicle with any emergency lights or sirens.

When the case was tried in 2018, the jury awarded \$5,000,000 in damages to the estate of Hilda Medrano. The jury determined that the deputy was 88.5 percent at fault and the driver of the car in which Ms. Medrano was a passenger was 11.5 percent at fault. The judge issued a final judgment for \$4,425,000, in favor of Ms. Medrano's estate, the proportion of the total verdict attributed to the negligence of the Sheriff's Office.

The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office has already paid \$500,000, the total coverage provided by the Florida Sheriff's Risk Management Fund, to the family of the driver who was killed in the accident and to a passenger who was injured while riding in the rear seat of the car.

During this legislative session, the attorneys for the claimant and respondent reached an agreement to settle this claim for \$1,200,000. The first \$300,000 will be paid within 30 days of the bill becoming law. The three remaining payments will be paid by July 1 of each of the following years.

The total amount of attorney fees paid for this claim may not exceed \$240,000; the total amount paid for lobbying fees may not exceed \$60,000; and the total amount paid for costs of other similar expenses may not exceed \$4,945.49.

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

*Vote: Senate 38-1; House 105-0*

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**CS/SB 16 — Relief of Mitchell by the South Broward Hospital District**

by Judiciary Committee and Senator Gruters

The bill compensates Jamiyah Mitchell for the negligent acts of the South Broward Hospital District that occurred at her birth in 2008. Pursuant to a settlement between the parties, the bill authorizes the Hospital District to pay the special needs trust for Jamiyah the sum of \$795,000, representing the balance of the settlement after prior payment of the sovereign immunity limits. The bill also limits the compensation, attorney fees, lobbying fees, and certain costs and expenses that may be paid from the settlement.

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

*Vote: Senate 39-1; House 105-0*

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**SB 62 — Relief of Robert Earl DuBoise by the State of Florida**

by Senator Grall

This bill provides \$1.85 million to be appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Financial Services for the relief of Robert Earl DuBoise for his 37 years of wrongful incarceration. Additionally, the bill waives tuition and fees for Robert Earl DuBoise for up to 120 hours of instruction at a career center, Florida College System Institution, or state university.

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

*Vote: Senate 38-1; House 105-0*