By Senator Jones

31 THEREFORE,

40-1552-99 See HB

1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to natural disaster relief; 3 providing relief to the Monroe County School 4 District for certain declared natural 5 disasters; holding the school district harmless with respect to its 1998-1999 FEFP 6 appropriation; providing an appropriation to 7 cover the costs of certain expenses related to 8 9 recovery efforts; providing an effective date. 10 WHEREAS, Monroe County suffered three natural disasters 11 12 in 1998, the Groundhog Day tornadoes in February, Hurricane Georges in September, and Tropical Storm Mitch in November, 13 each of which was declared a natural disaster by the President 14 of the United States, and 15 WHEREAS, the Monroe County district schools serve 16 17 children and adults throughout the county, and WHEREAS, the Monroe County district schools have 18 19 endured damages to the physical plant facilities expected to 20 exceed \$10 million, and 21 WHEREAS, the Monroe County district schools are 22 currently anticipating a loss of 350 to 400 students from the 23 student enrollment estimate approved by the Legislature for the 1998-1999 school year, and 24 25 WHEREAS, this loss of students translates into the 26 potential loss of \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million from the 27 current year's operating budget, and 28 WHEREAS, no school district is in a position to 29 maintain services and recovery efforts from such natural 30 disasters without some financial relief and assistance, NOW,

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 1 2 3 The Monroe County School District shall be Section 1. 4 held harmless with respect to its FEFP appropriation for 5 fiscal year 1998-1999, notwithstanding any change in estimated 6 enrollment in the district for that fiscal year resulting from 7 the three natural disasters that affected Monroe County in 1998, which were presidentially declared natural disasters and 8 9 which consisted of the Groundhog Day tornadoes in February, 10 Hurricane Georges in September, and Tropical Storm Mitch in 11 November of that year. There is hereby appropriated from the 12 Section 2. General Revenue Fund to the Monroe County School District an 13 14 amount sufficient to cover expenses resulting from insurance 15 deductibles, insurance depreciation, payment for items not covered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other 16 17 demonstrated losses such as instructional materials and overtime personnel costs required of recovery efforts 18 19 necessitated by the natural disasters listed in section 1 that affected Monroe County in 1998. 20 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a 21 22 law. 23 *********** 24 25 HOUSE SUMMARY 26 Provides relief to the Monroe County School District for natural disasters that affected Monroe County in 1998. Holds the school district harmless with respect to its 1998-1999 FEFP appropriation and provides an appropriation to cover the costs of certain expenses related to recovery efforts. See bill for details. 27 28 29 30