

By Senator Campbell

33-48-01

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Palm Beach County; providing  
3           for the relief of Lawrence Douglas Bigney;  
4           authorizing and directing the Sheriff's Office  
5           of Palm Beach County to compensate him for  
6           personal injuries suffered due to the unlawful  
7           acts of an employee of the sheriff's office;  
8           providing an effective date.

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10           WHEREAS, on January 28, 1998, Lawrence Douglas Bigney  
11 was operating his motorcycle westbound on Southern Boulevard  
12 in West Palm Beach, when a sheriff's deputy, who was operating  
13 a vehicle owned by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office,  
14 unlawfully failed to yield the right-of-way and pulled into  
15 the path of Mr. Bigney's motorcycle, and

16           WHEREAS, Lawrence Bigney was seriously injured as a  
17 result of this action: he had severe compound comminuted  
18 fractures of the right distal tibia-fibula, which nearly  
19 resulted in the amputation of his right lower extremity; and  
20 he was repeatedly hospitalized and underwent surgery four  
21 times between January 28, 1998, and April 21, 1999, and

22           WHEREAS, Mr. Bigney was totally disabled from working  
23 until approximately June 1999, and at that time, although he  
24 was released by his doctor to return to light-duty work, he  
25 was unable to return to his former employment as a  
26 police/public-safety officer and fire inspector for the Town  
27 of South Palm Beach, a job he had held for the 4 years prior  
28 to this accident, and

29           WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and Mr.  
30 Bigney have entered into a settlement agreement, under which

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1 the sheriff's office has paid Mr. Bigney \$100,000, the  
2 statutory limit under section 768.28, Florida Statutes, and

3 WHEREAS, the parties to this action have entered into  
4 an agreement that Lawrence Bigney will submit a claim bill in  
5 the amount of \$75,000, and that the sheriff's office will  
6 neither support nor object to the bill, NOW, THEREFORE,

7  
8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

9  
10 Section 1. The facts stated in the preamble to this  
11 act are found and declared to be true.

12 Section 2. The Sheriff's Office of Palm Beach County  
13 is authorized and directed to compensate Lawrence Douglas  
14 Bigney in the amount of \$75,000, out of funds of the Palm  
15 Beach County Sheriff's Office not otherwise appropriated, for  
16 injuries and damages sustained as a result of the unlawful  
17 acts of an employee of the sheriff's office.

18 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
19 law.