

By Representative Justice

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the City of St. Petersburg;  
3           providing for the relief of Alfred Brinkley  
4           Roberts; authorizing and directing the City of  
5           St. Petersburg to compensate him for injuries  
6           suffered due to the negligence of an employee  
7           of the city; providing an effective date.

8  
9           WHEREAS, on August 31, 1991, Alfred Brinkley Roberts  
10          was walking across Ninth Avenue South, near 15th Street, in  
11          St. Petersburg, when he was struck by a police cruiser that  
12          had been traveling at a speed in excess of 65 miles per hour  
13          in a 35-mile-per-hour zone, and

14                 WHEREAS, due to its sliding wheels, the cruiser could  
15          not be steered and left more than 200 feet of skid marks as  
16          it, in effect, followed Alfred Brinkley Roberts out of the  
17          travel lane and into an unmarked parking zone, where the  
18          actual impact took place, and

19                 WHEREAS, Alfred Brinkley Roberts' injuries were extreme  
20          and included massive brain and orthopedic injuries,  
21          incontinence, and confinement for the rest of his life to a  
22          wheelchair, and

23                 WHEREAS, the police officer operating the cruiser was  
24          investigated by the St. Petersburg Police Department's  
25          Internal Affairs, which found the officer to be at fault for  
26          causing the accident, and

27                 WHEREAS, at the time of the accident, Alfred Brinkley  
28          Roberts had alcohol present in his system; however, it was  
29          shown at trial that it would have been impossible for any  
30          person to have avoided the swerving, out-of-control cruiser,  
31          and

1           WHEREAS, after a lengthy trial, the jury awarded Alfred  
2 Brinkley Roberts \$1,267,735.05, which was reduced by 20  
3 percent to \$1,014,188.04, for comparative negligence, and

4           WHEREAS, Alfred Brinkley Roberts has outstanding  
5 medical bills and liens that include, but are not limited to,  
6 \$230,239.86 to Bayfront Medical Center, \$6,235 to Dr. Clinton  
7 B. Davis, II, and \$153,621 to the Veterans Administration, and

8           WHEREAS, Alfred Brinkley Roberts also owes his attorney  
9 for legal services rendered during the 9 years that he has  
10 been pursuing compensation for his injuries and also needs  
11 funds for his care for the duration of his life, NOW,

12 THEREFORE,

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15  
16           Section 1. The facts stated in the preamble to this  
17 act are found and declared to be true.

18           Section 2. The City of St. Petersburg is authorized  
19 and directed to appropriate from funds of the city not  
20 otherwise appropriated and to draw a warrant in the sum of  
21 \$655,346.97 payable to Alfred Brinkley Roberts to compensate  
22 him for injuries and damages sustained. After payment of  
23 Alfred Brinkley Roberts' outstanding medical bills, medical  
24 liens, and attorney's fees, the remaining proceeds shall be  
25 used to provide for the care of Alfred Brinkley Roberts for  
26 the duration of his life.

27           Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
28 law.