



1           WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Hennelly were rushed to a nearby  
2 hospital emergency room, where they were admitted with severe  
3 head, facial, bodily, and burn injuries, and where they  
4 remained in comas for several weeks, and

5           WHEREAS, legal action was pursued and, at trial,  
6 accident-reconstruction experts testified that the sheriff's  
7 office had negligently conducted the pursuit, and

8           WHEREAS, in April 2000, a jury returned a verdict  
9 finding the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department 50-percent  
10 at fault for the accident and for the injuries to Mr. and Mrs.  
11 Hennelly, and

12           WHEREAS, after reducing the verdict for comparative  
13 fault and calculating a setoff for no-fault benefits, the  
14 circuit court entered a final judgment in the amount of  
15 \$3,508,941 against the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department  
16 on June 1, 2000, NOW, THEREFORE,

17  
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

19  
20           Section 1. The facts stated in the preamble to this  
21 act are found and declared to be true.

22           Section 2. The St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office is  
23 authorized and directed to appropriate from funds of the  
24 sheriff's office not otherwise appropriated and to draw a  
25 warrant payable to William Hennelly and Anne Hennelly for the  
26 total amount of \$3,508,941, which amount includes statutory  
27 attorney's fees and costs, for injuries and damages sustained  
28 due to the negligence of employees of the St. Lucie County  
29 Sheriff's Office.

30           Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
31 law.