${\bf By}$ Senator Joyner

	18-00211-11 2011250
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to compensation for wrongful
3	incarceration; amending s. 961.02, F.S.; defining the
4	term "actual innocence" for purposes of the Victims of
5	Wrongful Incarceration Compensation Act; redefining
6	the term "wrongfully incarcerated person," to conform;
7	amending s. 961.03, F.S.; requiring that a petition
8	for compensation describe the existence of clear and
9	convincing evidence of actual innocence; requiring the
10	petitioner to submit fingerprints for criminal history
11	records checks; providing that a failure to submit
12	fingerprints within the prescribed timeframe does not
13	warrant denial of compensation under the act;
14	providing procedures for taking and submitting
15	fingerprints; requiring that the results of the
16	criminal history records checks be submitted to the
17	clerk of the court; providing for use of the results
18	by the court; specifying who will pay for the criminal
19	history records checks; amending s. 961.05, F.S.;
20	eliminating the requirement that a wrongfully
21	incarcerated person provide certain court records and
22	documentation from the Department of Corrections along
23	with an application for compensation; requiring the
24	Department of Legal Affairs to request certain records
25	from the clerk of the court and the Department of
26	Corrections; amending s. 961.06, F.S.; providing for
27	compensation of reasonable attorney's fees and
28	expenses, up to \$50,000, incurred for pursuing
29	compensation for wrongful incarceration; directing the

Page 1 of 17

	18-00211-11 2011250
30	Chief Financial Officer to remit payment of attorney's
31	fees directly to the attorney; precluding the attorney
32	from receipt of additional fees from the wrongfully
33	incarcerated person; requiring the Chief Financial
34	Officer to draw a warrant to an insurance company or
35	other financial institution authorized to issue
36	annuity contracts to purchase an annuity selected by
37	the wrongfully incarcerated person; authorizing the
38	Chief Financial Officer to execute all necessary
39	agreements to implement compensation and to maximize
40	the benefit to the wrongfully incarcerated person;
41	requiring that the wrongfully incarcerated person sign
42	a waiver before the Department of Legal Affairs
43	approves the application; precluding submission of an
44	application for compensation if the wrongfully
45	incarcerated person has received a prior favorable
46	judgment from a civil action arising out of the
47	wrongful incarceration; providing an effective date.
48	
49	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
50	
51	Section 1. Section 961.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to
52	read:
53	961.02 Definitions.—As used in ss. 961.01-961.07, the term:
54	(1) "Act" means the Victims of Wrongful Incarceration
55	Compensation Act.
56	(2) "Actual innocence" means that a person did not commit
57	the act or the offense that served as the basis for the
58	conviction and incarceration for which the person seeks

Page 2 of 17

	18-00211-11 2011250
59	compensation, and that the person did not aid, abet, or act as
60	an accomplice to a person who committed the act or offense.
61	(3) (2) "Department" means the Department of Legal Affairs.
62	(4) "Division" means the Division of Administrative
63	Hearings.
64	(5)(4) "Wrongfully incarcerated person" means a person
65	whose felony conviction and sentence have been vacated by a
66	court of competent jurisdiction and, with respect to whom
67	pursuant to the requirements of s. 961.03, the original
68	sentencing court has issued its order finding that the person
69	has proven actual innocence by clear and convincing evidence
70	neither committed the act nor the offense that served as the
71	basis for the conviction and incarceration and that the person
72	did not aid, abet, or act as an accomplice or accessory to a
73	person who committed the act or offense.
74	<u>(6)</u> "Eligible for compensation" means a person meets the
75	definition of "wrongfully incarcerated person" and is not
76	disqualified from seeking compensation under the criteria
77	prescribed in s. 961.04.
78	(7)(6) "Entitled to compensation" means a person meets the
79	definition of "eligible for compensation" and satisfies the
80	application requirements prescribed in s. 961.05, and may
81	receive compensation pursuant to s. 961.06.
82	Section 2. Section 961.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to
83	read:
84	961.03 Determination of status as a wrongfully incarcerated
85	person; determination of eligibility for compensation
86	(1)(a) In order to meet the definition of a "wrongfully
87	incarcerated person" and "eligible for compensation," upon entry

Page 3 of 17

18-00211-11 2011250 88 of an order, based upon exonerating evidence, vacating a 89 conviction and sentence, a person must set forth the claim of 90 wrongful incarceration under oath and with particularity by 91 filing a petition with the original sentencing court, with a 92 copy of the petition and proper notice to the prosecuting authority in the underlying felony for which the person was 93 94 incarcerated. At a minimum, the petition must: 95 1. State that clear and convincing verifiable and substantial evidence of actual innocence exists and state with 96 97 particularity the nature and significance of the verifiable and 98 substantial evidence of actual innocence; and 99 2. State that the person is not disqualified, under the provisions of s. 961.04, from seeking compensation under this 100 101 act. 102 (b) The person must file the petition with the court: 103 1. Within 90 days after the order vacating a conviction and 104 sentence becomes final if the person's conviction and sentence 105 is vacated on or after July 1, 2008. 2. By July 1, 2010, if the person's conviction and sentence 106 107 was vacated by an order that became final prior to July 1, 2008. 108 (c)1. Within 30 days after filing the petition, the 109 petitioner must submit fingerprints for a state and national criminal history records check. Failure to satisfy this 110 111 subparagraph within the prescribed timeframe is not grounds for 112 denial of compensation under this act. 113 2. The clerk of the court shall inform the petitioner of 114 the process for having his or her fingerprints taken and 115 submitted and provide information concerning law enforcement 116 agencies or service providers that are authorized to submit

Page 4 of 17

18-00211-11

2011250

117 <u>fingerprints electronically to the Department of Law</u>

118 Enforcement.

119 3. The petitioner's fingerprints must be taken in a manner 120 approved by the Department of Law Enforcement and shall be 121 submitted electronically to the Department of Law Enforcement 122 for state processing for a criminal history records check. The 123 Department of Law Enforcement shall submit the fingerprints to 124 the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national processing. The 125 Department of Law Enforcement shall submit the results of the 126 state and national records check to the clerk of the court. The 127 court shall consider the results in evaluating whether the 128 petitioner is eligible for compensation under s. 961.04. 129 4. The petitioner may not be charged for the cost of 130 conducting the state and national criminal history records

131 <u>checks required under this paragraph. The cost of state and</u> 132 <u>national processing shall be borne by the Department of Law</u> 133 Enforcement.

(2) The prosecuting authority must respond to the petitionwithin 30 days. The prosecuting authority may respond:

136 (a) By certifying to the court that, based upon the 137 petition and verifiable and substantial evidence of actual 138 innocence, no further criminal proceedings in the case at bar 139 can or will be initiated by the prosecuting authority, and that 140 the prosecuting authority does not contest no questions of fact 141 remain as to the petitioner's claim of actual innocence wrongful 142 incarceration, and that the petitioner is not ineligible from 143 seeking compensation under the provisions of s. 961.04; or (b) By certifying to the court that questions of fact 144

145 remain as to the petitioner's claim of actual innocence, and

Page 5 of 17

1	18-00211-11 2011250
146	that the prosecuting authority contests contesting the nature,
147	significance, or effect of the evidence of actual innocence, the
148	facts related to the petitioner's alleged wrongful
149	incarceration, or whether the petitioner is ineligible from
150	seeking compensation under the provisions of s. 961.04.
151	(3) If the prosecuting authority <u>certifies to the court</u>
152	that it does not contest the petitioner's claim of actual
153	innocence, and the court finds that the petitioner has proven
154	actual innocence by clear and convincing evidence and is
155	eligible for compensation under s. 961.04 responds as set forth
156	in paragraph (2)(a), the original sentencing court, based upon
157	the evidence of actual innocence, the prosecuting authority's
158	certification, and upon the court's finding that the petitioner
159	has presented clear and convincing evidence that the petitioner
160	committed neither the act nor the offense that served as the
161	basis for the conviction and incarceration, and that the
162	petitioner did not aid, abet, or act as an accomplice to a
163	person who committed the act or offense , the original sentencing
164	<u>court</u> shall certify to the department that the petitioner is a
165	wrongfully incarcerated person who is eligible for compensation
166	as defined by this act. Based upon the prosecuting authority's
167	certification, the court shall also certify to the department
168	that the petitioner is eligible for compensation under the
169	provisions of s. 961.04.
170	(4)(a) If the prosecuting authority contests the
171	petitioner's claim of actual innocence responds as set forth in
172	paragraph (2)(b) , the original sentencing court shall make a

173 determination from the pleadings and supporting documentation 174 whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, the petitioner is

Page 6 of 17

18-00211-11 2011250 175 eligible ineligible for compensation under the provisions of s. 176 961.04, regardless of his or her claim of wrongful 177 incarceration. If the court finds the petitioner ineligible 178 under the provisions of s. 961.04, it must shall dismiss the 179 petition. 180 (b) If the court determines that the petitioner is eligible 181 under s. 961.04 prosecuting authority responds as set forth in paragraph (2) (b), and the court determines that the petitioner 182 183 is eligible under the provisions of s. 961.04, but the 184 prosecuting authority contests the nature, significance, or 185 effect of the evidence of actual innocence, or the facts related 186 to the petitioner's alleged wrongful incarceration, the court shall set forth its findings and transfer the petition to the 187 division for findings of fact and a recommended determination of 188 189 whether the petitioner has proven actual innocence established 190 that he or she is a wrongfully incarcerated person who is 191 eligible for compensation under this act. 192 (5) The petitioner must prove actual innocence before the 193 administrative law judge by clear and convincing evidence. Any 194 questions of fact, the nature, significance or effect of the 195 evidence of actual innocence, and the petitioner's eligibility for compensation under this act must be established by clear and 196 convincing evidence by the petitioner before an administrative 197 198 law judge.

(6) (a) Pursuant to division rules and any additional rules
set forth by the administrative law judge, a hearing <u>must shall</u>
be conducted no later than 120 days after the transfer of the
petition to the division.

203

(b) The prosecuting authority shall appear for the purpose

Page 7 of 17

18-00211-11 2011250 204 of contesting, as necessary, the facts, the nature, and 205 significance or effect of the evidence of actual innocence as 206 presented by the petitioner. 207 (c) No later than 45 days after the adjournment of the 208 hearing, the administrative law judge shall issue an order 209 setting forth his or her findings and recommendation and shall 210 file the order with the original sentencing court. 211 (d) The original sentencing court shall review the findings and recommendation contained in the order of the administrative 212 law judge and, within 60 days, shall issue its own order 213 214 adopting or declining to adopt the findings and recommendation 215 of the administrative law judge. 216 (7) If the court concludes that the petitioner is a 217 wrongfully incarcerated person as defined by this act and is 218 eligible for compensation as defined in this act, the court 219 shall include in its order a certification to the department 220 that: 221 (a)1. The order of the administrative law judge finds that 222 the petitioner has met his or her burden of proving actual 223 innocence establishing by clear and convincing evidence that the 224 petitioner committed neither the act nor the offense that served 225 as the basis for the conviction and incarceration and that the 226 petitioner did not aid, abet, or act as an accomplice to a 227 person who committed the act or offense; 228 2. The findings and recommendation of the administrative 229 law judge on which its order is based are supported by 230 competent, substantial evidence; and 231 3. The petitioner is a wrongfully incarcerated person who 232 is eligible for compensation; or

Page 8 of 17

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

SB 250

18-00211-11

2011250

233 (b) 2. That The court has declined to adopt the findings and 234 recommendation recommendations of the administrative law judge 235 that the petitioner failed to prove actual innocence by clear 236 and convincing evidence and finds that the petitioner has met 237 his or her burden of proving actual innocence establishing by clear and convincing evidence, and that the petitioner is a 238 wrongfully incarcerated person who is eligible for compensation. 239 240 that the petitioner committed neither the act nor the offense 241 that served as the basis for the conviction and incarceration 2.42 and that the petitioner did not aid, abet, or act as an 243 accomplice to a person who committed the act or offense; and

244 (b) The original sentencing court determines the findings 245 and recommendations on which its order is based are supported by 246 competent, substantial evidence.

(8) The establishment of the method by which a person may seek the status of a wrongfully incarcerated person and a finding as to eligibility for compensation under this act in no way creates any rights of due process beyond those set forth <u>in</u> <u>this act herein</u>, nor is there created any right to further petition or appeal beyond the scope of the method set forth <u>in</u> this act <u>herein</u>.

254 Section 3. Section 961.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to 255 read:

256 961.05 Application for compensation for wrongful 257 incarceration; administrative expunction; determination of 258 entitlement to compensation.-

(1) A wrongfully incarcerated person who is eligible for
 compensation as defined in this act must initiate his or her
 application for compensation as required in this section no more

Page 9 of 17

	18-00211-11 2011250
262	than 2 years after the original sentencing court enters its
263	order finding that the person meets the definition of \underline{a}
264	wrongfully incarcerated person and is eligible for compensation
265	as defined in this act.
266	(2) A wrongfully incarcerated person who is eligible for
267	compensation under the act must apply to the Department of Legal
268	Affairs. No estate of, or personal representative for, a
269	decedent is entitled to apply on behalf of the decedent for
270	compensation for wrongful incarceration.
271	(3) The Department of Legal Affairs may adopt rules
272	regarding the forms and procedures related to applications for
273	compensation under this act the Victims of Wrongful
274	Incarceration Compensation Act.
275	(4) The application must include:
276	(a) Identification of the original sentencing court and the
277	criminal case number of the case or cases for which the person
278	was wrongfully incarcerated A certified copy of the order
279	vacating the conviction and sentence;
280	(b) A certified copy of the original sentencing court's
281	order finding the claimant to be a wrongfully incarcerated
282	person who is eligible for compensation under this act;
283	(c) Certified copies of the original judgment and sentence;
284	(d) Documentation demonstrating the length of the sentence
285	served, including documentation from the Department of
286	Corrections regarding the person's admission into and release
287	from the custody of the Department of Corrections;
288	<u>(b)</u> Positive proof of identification, including two full
289	sets of fingerprints administered by a law enforcement agency
290	and a current form of photo identification, demonstrating that

Page 10 of 17

_	18-00211-11 2011250
291	the person seeking compensation is the same individual who was
292	wrongfully incarcerated;
293	<u>(c) (f)</u> All supporting documentation of any fine, penalty,
294	or court costs imposed and paid by the wrongfully incarcerated
295	person as described in s. 961.06(1)(c);
296	(d) (g) All supporting documentation of any reasonable
297	attorney's fees and expenses as described in s. 961.06(1)(d);
298	and
299	(e)(h) Any other documentation, evidence, or information
300	required by rules adopted by the department.
301	(5) Upon receipt of the application, the department shall:
302	forward one full set of fingerprints of the applicant to the
303	Department of Law Enforcement for statewide criminal records
304	checks. The Department of Law Enforcement shall forward the
305	second set of fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of
306	Investigation for national criminal records checks. The results
307	of the state and national records checks shall be submitted to
308	the department.
309	(a) Request that the clerk of the court provide a certified
310	copy of the order vacating the conviction and sentence and
311	certified copies of the original judgment and sentence. The
312	clerk shall provide these records at no charge.
313	(b) Request that the Department of Corrections provide
314	documentation demonstrating the length of the sentence served,
315	including the dates of the wrongfully incarcerated person's
316	admission into and release from the custody of the Department of
317	Corrections. The Department of Corrections shall provide this
318	documentation at no charge.
319	(c)(6) Upon receipt of an application, the department shall

Page 11 of 17

18-00211-11 2011250 320 Examine the application and notify the wrongfully incarcerated 321 person claimant within 30 calendar days of any errors or 322 omissions, and request any additional information relevant to 323 the review of the application. The wrongfully incarcerated 324 person claimant shall have 15 days after proper notification of 325 any existing errors or omissions to supplement the application. The department may not deny an application for failure of the 326 327 wrongfully incarcerated person claimant to correct an error or 328 omission or supply additional information unless the department 329 timely notified the person claimant of such errors or omissions 330 or requested the additional information within the 30-day period 331 specified in this subsection. The department shall process and 332 review each completed application within 90 calendar days. Once 333 the department determines whether a claim for compensation meets 334 the requirements of this act, the department shall notify the 335 wrongfully incarcerated person claimant within 5 business days 336 of that determination. 337 (6) (7) If the department determines that a wrongfully 338 incarcerated person claimant meets the requirements of this act, 339 the wrongfully incarcerated person who is the subject of the

339 the wrongfully incarcerated person who is the subject of the 340 claim becomes entitled to compensation, subject to the 341 provisions in s. 961.06.

342 Section 4. Section 961.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to 343 read:

344

961.06 Compensation for wrongful incarceration.-

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this act and subject to the limitations and procedures prescribed in this section, a person who is found to be entitled to compensation under the provisions of this act is entitled to:

Page 12 of 17

18-00211-11 2011250 349 (a) Monetary compensation for wrongful incarceration, which 350 shall be calculated at a rate of \$50,000 for each year of 351 wrongful incarceration, prorated as necessary to account for a 352 portion of a year. For persons found to be wrongfully 353 incarcerated after December 31, 2008, the Chief Financial 354 Officer may adjust the annual rate of compensation for inflation 355 using the change in the December-to-December "Consumer Price 356 Index for All Urban Consumers" of the Bureau of Labor Statistics 357 of the Department of Labor;

358 (b) A waiver of tuition and fees for up to 120 hours of 359 instruction at any career center established under s. 1001.44, 360 any community college as defined in s. 1000.21(3), or any state university as defined in s. 1000.21(6), if the wrongfully 361 362 incarcerated person meets and maintains the regular admission 363 requirements of such career center, community college, or state 364 university; remains registered at such educational institution; 365 and makes satisfactory academic progress as defined by the 366 educational institution in which the wrongfully incarcerated 367 person claimant is enrolled;

368 (c) The amount of any fine, penalty, or court costs imposed
 369 and paid by the wrongfully incarcerated person;

(d) The amount of any reasonable attorney's fees and
expenses incurred and paid by the wrongfully incarcerated person
in connection with all criminal proceedings and appeals
regarding the wrongful conviction, to be calculated by the
department based upon the supporting documentation submitted as
specified in s. 961.05; and

376 (e) The amount of any reasonable attorney's fees and 377 expenses incurred by the wrongfully incarcerated person in

Page 13 of 17

406

18-00211-11 2011250 378 connection with obtaining compensation under this act, not to 379 exceed \$50,000, to be calculated by the department upon the 380 submission of supporting documentation of those fees and 381 expenses. The Chief Financial Officer shall pay the attorney's 382 fees and costs directly to the attorney, and the attorney may 383 not receive additional fees and costs from the wrongfully 384 incarcerated person by another arrangement or contract; and 385 (f) (e) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in s. 386 943.0585, immediate administrative expunction of the wrongfully 387 incarcerated person's criminal record resulting from his or her 388 wrongful arrest, wrongful conviction, and wrongful 389 incarceration. The Department of Legal Affairs and the 390 Department of Law Enforcement shall, upon a determination that a 391 person claimant is entitled to compensation, immediately take 392 all action necessary to administratively expunge the person's 393 claimant's criminal record arising from his or her wrongful 394 arrest, wrongful conviction, and wrongful incarceration. All 395 fees for this process shall be waived. 396 397 The total compensation awarded under paragraphs (a), (c), and 398 (d), and (e) may not exceed \$2 million. Except as provided in 399 paragraph (e), no further award for attorney's fees, lobbying 400 fees, costs, or other similar expenses shall be made by the 401 state. 402 (2) In calculating monetary compensation under paragraph 403 (1) (a), a wrongfully incarcerated person who is placed on parole 404 or community supervision while serving the sentence resulting 405 from the wrongful conviction and who commits anything less than

Page 14 of 17

a felony law violation that results in revocation of the parole

	18-00211-11 2011250
407	or community supervision is eligible for compensation for the
408	total number of years incarcerated. A wrongfully incarcerated
409	person who commits a felony law violation that results in
410	revocation of the parole or community supervision is ineligible
411	for any compensation under subsection (1).
412	(3) Within 15 calendar days after issuing notice to the
413	wrongfully incarcerated person claimant that his or her claim
414	satisfies all of the requirements under this act, the department
415	shall notify the Chief Financial Officer to draw a warrant from
416	the General Revenue Fund or another source designated by the
417	Legislature in law for the purchase of an annuity for the
418	wrongfully incarcerated person claimant based on the total
419	amount determined by the department under this act.
420	(4) The Chief Financial Officer shall issue payment in the
421	amount determined by the department to an insurance company or
422	other financial institution admitted and authorized to issue
423	purchase an annuity contracts in this state to purchase an
424	annuity, selected by the wrongfully incarcerated person, on
425	behalf of the claimant for a term of not less than 10 years. <u>The</u>
426	Chief Financial Officer shall execute all necessary agreements
427	to implement this act and maximize the benefit to the wrongfully
428	incarcerated person. The terms of the annuity shall:
429	(a) Provide that the annuity may not be sold, discounted,
430	or used as security for a loan or mortgage by the <u>wrongfully</u>
431	incarcerated person applicant.
432	(b) Contain beneficiary provisions for the continued
433	disbursement of the annuity in the event of the death of the

434 wrongfully incarcerated person applicant.

435

(5) Before the department approves the application under s.

Page 15 of 17

18-00211-11 2011250 436 961.05 Chief Financial Officer draws the warrant for the 437 purchase of the annuity, the wrongfully incarcerated person 438 claimant must sign a release and waiver on behalf of the 439 wrongfully incarcerated person claimant and his or her heirs, successors, and assigns, forever releasing the state or any 440 441 agency, instrumentality, or any political subdivision thereof, 442 or any other entity subject to the provisions of s. 768.28, from 443 all present or future claims that the wrongfully incarcerated 444 person claimant or his or her heirs, successors, or assigns may 445 have against such entities arising out of the facts in 446 connection with the wrongful conviction for which compensation 447 is being sought under the act. The release and waiver must be 448 provided to the department prior to the issuance of the warrant by the Chief Financial Officer. 449 450 (6) (a) A wrongfully incarcerated person may not submit an 451 application for compensation under this act if the person has a

application for compensation under this act if the person has a <u>civil action</u> lawsuit pending against the state or any agency, instrumentality, or any political subdivision thereof, or any other entity subject to the provisions of s. 768.28, in state or federal court requesting compensation arising out of the facts in connection with the <u>wrongfully incarcerated person's</u> claimant's conviction and incarceration.

(b) A wrongfully incarcerated person may not submit an application for compensation under this act if the person has received a prior judgment in his or her favor in a civil action against the state or any agency, instrumentality, or any political subdivision thereof, or against any other entity subject to s. 768.28, in state or federal court arising out of the wrongfully incarcerated person's conviction and

Page 16 of 17

18-00211-11

465 incarceration.

491

466 <u>(c) (b)</u> A wrongfully incarcerated person may not submit an 467 application for compensation under this act if the person is the 468 subject of a claim bill pending for claims arising out of the 469 facts in connection with the wrongfully incarcerated person's 470 claimant's conviction and incarceration.

471 <u>(d) (c)</u> Once an application is filed under this act, a 472 wrongfully incarcerated person may not pursue recovery under a 473 claim bill until the final disposition of the application.

474 <u>(e) (d)</u> Any amount awarded under this act is intended to 475 provide the sole compensation for any and all present and future 476 claims arising out of the facts in connection with the 477 <u>wrongfully incarcerated person's claimant's</u> conviction and 478 incarceration. Upon notification by the department that an 479 application meets the requirements of this act, a wrongfully 480 incarcerated person may not recover under a claim bill.

481 <u>(f) (e)</u> Any compensation awarded under a claim bill shall be 482 the sole redress for claims arising out of the facts in 483 connection with the wrongfully incarcerated person's claimant's 484 conviction and incarceration and, upon any award of compensation 485 to a wrongfully incarcerated person under a claim bill, the 486 person may not receive compensation under this act.

487 (7) Any payment made under this act does not constitute a
488 waiver of any defense of sovereign immunity or an increase in
489 the limits of liability on behalf of the state or any person
490 subject to the provisions of s. 768.28 or other law.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.

Page 17 of 17

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

2011250