

By Senator Rodriguez

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A bill to be entitled

An act for the relief of the Estate of James Corpora by Miami-Dade County; providing an appropriation to compensate the estate for James Corpora's death as a result of the negligence of a Miami-Dade County bus driver; providing for a limitation on compensation and the payment of attorney fees; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2024, Angel Maria Brown, a bus driver employed by Miami-Dade County and acting within the scope of her employment, was operating a Miami-Dade County bus southbound on Washington Avenue in Miami Beach, and

WHEREAS, at that time, James Corpora was lawfully parked in a designated parking space on the west side of Washington Avenue, near or at the intersection of Washington Avenue and 13th Street, in Miami Beach, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brown brought the bus to a stop behind Mr. Corpora's lawfully parked vehicle under the mistaken belief that he was preparing to exit the parking space and drive away, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Corpora exited his vehicle and stood adjacent to the driver's side door of his vehicle, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Brown attempted to maneuver the bus around both Mr. Corpora and his parked vehicle to enter the bus stop area located directly in front of Mr. Corpora's vehicle, and in doing so, Ms. Brown negligently caused the rear portion of the bus to strike and pin Mr. Corpora between the bus and his own vehicle, and

WHEREAS, passengers on the bus alerted Ms. Brown that Mr.

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Corpora had been struck and was pinned between his car and the bus, and in response Ms. Brown turned the steering wheel to the left, causing the rear of the bus to move further to the right and crush Mr. Corpora between the bus and his vehicle before he was ultimately released and fell to the ground, and

WHEREAS, emergency responders were summoned, but Mr. Corpora succumbed to his injuries and died shortly thereafter, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the incident on November 8, 2024, Ana Maria Corpora, the personal representative of the Estate of James Corpora, filed an action in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Miami-Dade County, under case number 25-12498-CA-01, alleging that the negligence of an employee of Miami-Dade County was the proximate cause of the death of James Corpora and the survivors of James Corpora suffered significant damages, including, but not limited to, loss of support and services, loss of companionship and protection, mental pain and suffering, and other damages cognizable under Florida law, and

WHEREAS, Ana Maria Corpora, the personal representative of the Estate of James Corpora, and Miami-Dade County reached a settlement whereby Miami-Dade County agreed to pay the sum of \$200,000 to Ana Maria Corpora, as personal representative of the estate, in full satisfaction of Miami-Dade County's liability up to the limits set forth in s. 768.28, Florida Statutes, applicable to a claim against a governmental entity arising out of a single incident or occurrence, and

WHEREAS, as part of the same settlement, Miami-Dade County also agreed to support the filing and passage of a claim bill in

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the Legislature for the additional amount of \$1.05 million as compensation to the Estate of James Corpora and his survivors, and the plaintiff agreed that she would not seek a claim bill in an amount exceeding \$1.05 million, and

WHEREAS, the remaining \$1.05 million is needed to fully satisfy the settlement, and the claim shall be considered fully satisfied upon payment of the remaining \$1.05 million by Miami-Dade County to the Estate of James Corpora as authorized by the Legislature through the passage of this claim bill, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

Section 2. Miami-Dade County is authorized and directed to appropriate from funds of the county not otherwise encumbered and to draw a warrant in the sum of \$1.05 million payable to Ana Maria Corpora, personal representative of the Estate of James Corpora, as compensation for damages resulting from the death of James Corpora.

Section 3. The amount paid by Miami-Dade County pursuant to s. 768.28, Florida Statutes, and the amount awarded under this act are intended to provide the sole compensation for all present and future claims arising out of the factual situation described in this act which resulted in the death of James Corpora. The total amount paid for attorney fees relating to this claim may not exceed 25 percent of the total amount awarded under this act.

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Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.