

By Senator DiCeglie

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A bill to be entitled

An act for the relief of Samantha Sakowski, Li. S., B.J., and the Estate of Le. S. by the City of Temple Terrace; providing for an appropriation to compensate Samantha Sakowski, Li. S., and B.J. for injuries sustained, and to compensate the estate for Le. S.'s death as a result of the negligence of the City of Temple Terrace; providing a limitation on the payment of compensation and attorney fees; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, Samantha Sakowski is the natural parent of Li. S., born on July 6, 2019, and was the natural parent of Le. S., born on March 13, 2018, and

WHEREAS, Samantha Sakowski and John Jackson are the natural parents of B.J., born on July 6, 2024, and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2026, at 3:41 p.m., Samantha Sakowski owned and operated a Nissan Pathfinder, which was stopped, facing eastbound, in the center median left-turning lane of East Fowler Avenue, waiting for westbound traffic to clear before initiating a left-hand turn to proceed northbound onto North Drive at the intersection with East Fowler Avenue, in Temple Terrace, and

WHEREAS, 6-year old Le. S., 8-year old Li. S., and 21-month old B.J. were all restrained passengers in Samantha Sakowski's vehicle, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sakowski initiated a left-hand turn onto North Drive from the center median left-tuning lane of East Fowler Avenue and prepared to cross three lanes of westbound travel,

18-00064-27

202732__

30 seeing only a green van in the westbound lane a reasonably safe
31 distance from her vehicle, and

32 WHEREAS, on April 15, 2026, Officer Zachary Krug, a Temple
33 Terrace police officer acting within the scope of his
34 employment, was driving his assigned unmarked black 2023 Ford
35 Explorer westbound on East Fowler Avenue behind the green van
36 seen by Ms. Sakowski near the time she prepared to initiate her
37 left-hand turn, and

38 WHEREAS, Officer Krug was traveling at a rate above the
39 posted speed limit of 50 miles per hour without the lights or
40 siren activated on his assigned, unmarked Ford Explorer, and
41 continued to accelerate at a high rate of speed, passing other
42 westbound vehicles in front of him and covering a large distance
43 in a short amount of time, and

44 WHEREAS, the unmarked Ford Explorer operated by Officer
45 Krug collided into the rear passenger side of Ms. Sakowski's
46 Nissan Pathfinder, causing it to flip several times before
47 coming to a rest on the grassy shoulder on the northside of
48 westbound East Fowler Avenue, and

49 WHEREAS, pursuant to dash camera footage and the event date
50 recorder for the unmarked Ford Explorer driven by Officer Krug,
51 Corporal Chad Anderson, the traffic homicide investigator of the
52 Florida Highway Patrol, and other investigating agencies
53 confirmed that the Ford Explorer reached the speed of 104 miles
54 per hour, 54 miles per hour in excess of the 50 miles per hour
55 posted speed limit while it travelled westbound on East Fowler
56 Avenue and decreased to approximately 74 miles per hour, 24
57 miles per hour in excess of the posted speed limit, before
58 colliding with Ms. Sakowski's vehicle, and

18-00064-27

202732__

WHEREAS, several witnesses helped Ms. Sakowski pull Le. S., Li. S., and B.J. from the vehicle before paramedics arrived at the scene, and

WHEREAS, when the paramedics arrived at the scene, Le. S., Li. S., and B.J. were bleeding and unresponsive, and

WHEREAS, John Anaya, a Florida Highway Patrol Trooper, arrived at the scene to investigate the crash, and

WHEREAS, Trooper Anaya determined that Officer Krug had operated his vehicle in excess of the posted speed limit and that Ms. Sakowski did not contribute in any way to the collision, and

WHEREAS, the paramedics drove Ms. Sakowski and her three children to Tampa General Hospital from the scene of the crash, and

WHEREAS, Le. S. was pronounced dead at Tampa General Hospital at 6 p.m. on April 15, 2026, and

WHEREAS, Tampa General Hospital kept Li. S. for 50 days and diagnosed Li. S. with multiple injuries, including traumatic brain injury with sequelae, diffuse brain injury with loss of consciousness greater than 24 hours, impairment of cognitive function, multiple fractures, infections, respiratory failure, and suspected stroke, and

WHEREAS, Tampa General Hospital discharged Li. S. on June 4, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the medical bills for Li. S. will likely exceed \$1 million, which will not include Li. S.'s ongoing medical care and treatment with specialists in the fields of neuropsychology, neurosurgery, neurology, pediatric ophthalmology, pediatric occupational therapy, pediatric physical therapy, pediatric

18-00064-27

202732__

speech therapy, pediatric otolaryngology, and orthopedics, and

WHEREAS, Tampa General Hospital discharged B.J. on April 20, 2026, and

WHEREAS, B.J. suffered multiple permanent injuries, including intracranial hemorrhage, traumatic brain injury with sequelae, hematomas, and contusions and incurred at least \$74,870.61 in collision-related medical bills, not including ongoing medical care and treatment, and

WHEREAS, Tampa General Hospital admitted Ms. Sakowski for 1 day, during which Ms. Sakowski underwent CT scans of her head, neck, chest, and pelvis, and has since been diagnosed with injuries, including rib fractures, lacerations, cervicalgia, and cervical, thoracic, and lumbar radiculopathy, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sakowski forwent additional medical care and treatment during the time her minor children Li. S. and B.J. were hospitalized, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sakowski incurred at least \$11,911 in collision-related medical bills, not including her hospital bill with Tampa General Hospital, which is still pending, and

WHEREAS, since the date of Li. S.'s discharge on June 4, 2026, Ms. Sakowski has transported the minor child to the child's follow-up appointments, and

WHEREAS, the claimants seek \$10 million for the wrongful death of Le. S., \$10 million for the significant permanent injuries suffered by Li. S., \$1 million for the significant permanent injuries suffered by B.J., and \$1.3 million for the injuries suffered by Ms. Sakowski for a total of \$22.3 million, less any amount recoverable from the City of Temple Terrace,
NOW, THEREFORE,

18-00064-27

202732__

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. The City of Temple Terrace is authorized and directed to appropriate from funds not otherwise encumbered and draw a warrant in the sum of \$22.3 million payable to Samantha Sakowski, Li. S., B.J., and Samantha Sakowski as the personal representative of the Estate of Le. S., as compensation damages resulting from injuries sustained and the death of Le. S.

Section 3. The amount paid by the City of Temple Terrace 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 injuries to Samantha Sakowski and minors Li. S. and B.J. and damages to the Estate of Le. S. The total amount paid for attorney fees relating to this claim may not exceed 25 percent of the total amount awarded under this act.

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