

By Senator Martin

33-00015-27

202736__

A bill to be entitled

An act for the relief of Krystle Mace and Leonard Mace by Charlotte County; providing for an appropriation to compensate Mrs. and Mr. Mace for injuries sustained as a result of the negligence of Charlotte County; providing a limitation on compensation and the payment of attorney fees; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2021, Krystle Mace and Leonard Mace were lawfully driving motorcycles during light rain on westbound Edgewater Drive in Charlotte County, and

WHEREAS, upon approaching a roundabout at Edgewater Drive and West Tarpon Boulevard, both Mrs. and Mr. Mace's motorcycles began to slide over a large, lane-wide area of black paint on the roadway, which was applied underneath white directional arrows, and

WHEREAS, as a result of her motorcycle slipping on the painted area, Mrs. Mace fell from the motorcycle and sustained extensive and severe injuries, and

WHEREAS, the lane-wide application of black paint to the roadway created dangerous, slippery conditions for motorcycles, especially in wet conditions, and

WHEREAS, the black paint was applied to the roadway by Charlotte County in violation of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways and Florida Department of Transportation standards, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. and Mr. Mace alleged, through a lawsuit filed on November 22, 2021, in the Circuit Court of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, that Mrs. Mace's injuries were caused by the

33-00015-27

202736__

negligence of Charlotte County in painting the lane-wide section
of roadway, and

WHEREAS, the lawsuit proceeded to trial, and, on December
11, 2025, a jury returned a verdict in favor of Mrs. and Mr.
Mace, finding Charlotte County 100 percent liable for the
incident, and

WHEREAS, since the incident, Mrs. Mace has received
considerable medical care and incurred substantial treatment
costs, and she will require such care for the remainder of her
life, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mace has endured significant pain and
suffering, disability, physical impairment, disfigurement,
mental anguish, inconvenience, and loss of capacity for the
enjoyment of life, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mace has suffered the loss of earnings and of
future earning potential, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mace has suffered the loss of his wife's
comfort, society, and attention, and

WHEREAS, a final judgment was entered on March 30, 2026, in
the amount of \$6,380,263.15, awarding \$5,380,263.15 to Mrs. Mace
and \$1 million to Mr. Mace, and

WHEREAS, Charlotte County has paid \$300,000 pursuant to the
limits of liability set forth in s. 768.28, Florida Statutes,
partially satisfying the judgment, and

WHEREAS, the balance of \$6,080,263.15 remains unpaid and
requires legislative approval through passage of a claim bill to
satisfy the remainder of the judgment, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

33-00015-27

202736__

59
60 Section 1. The facts stated in the preamble to this act are
61 found and declared to be true.

62 Section 2. The Charlotte County Board of County
63 Commissioners is authorized and directed to appropriate from
64 funds not otherwise encumbered and to draw a warrant in the sum
65 of \$6,080,263.15 payable to Krystle Mace and Leonard Mace as
66 compensation for injuries and damages sustained.

67 Section 3. The amount paid by the Charlotte County Board of
68 County Commissioners pursuant to s. 768.28, Florida Statutes,
69 and the amount awarded under this act are intended to provide
70 the sole compensation for all present and future claims arising
71 out of the factual situation described in this act which
72 resulted in injuries and damages to Krystle Mace and Leonard
73 Mace. The total amount paid for attorney fees relating to this
74 claim may not exceed 25 percent of the total amount awarded
75 under this act.

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