

Senate Bill No. 8

An act relating to St. Johns County; providing for the relief of William D. Mock and Susan G. Mock; providing for an appropriation to compensate them for injuries sustained as a result of the negligence of St. Johns County; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, on the afternoon of March 29, 1997, Bill Mock was riding his motorcycle south on A1A near the Jacksonville beaches, and

WHEREAS, while riding his motorcycle in a lawful manner, Bill Mock entered and proceeded through an intersection on a green light, and

WHEREAS, unbeknownst to Bill Mock, a St. Johns County ambulance traveling in the opposite direction made a left turn at the same intersection, across four lanes of oncoming traffic, and

WHEREAS, when the ambulance driver saw Bill Mock, he stopped, causing Bill Mock's motorcycle to crash into the left side of the 9000-lb. ambulance truck, and

WHEREAS, under federal, state, and county emergency vehicle operation procedures, emergency vehicles are prohibited from making a left-hand turn in front of oncoming traffic until the emergency vehicle driver makes eye contact with the other driver and the other driver yields, and

WHEREAS, at the scene of the accident, Bill Mock was transported via Life Flight helicopter to University Medical Center where he was hospitalized in the intensive care unit for over 2 weeks, and

WHEREAS, Bill Mock continued his hospitalization for an additional 6 weeks at the Genesis Rehabilitation Center for comprehensive inpatient brain injury rehabilitation, and

WHEREAS, Bill Mock suffered numerous permanent injuries and disfigurement, including brain damage, loss of sense of smell and taste, blindness in one eye, fractured skull, fractured neck and back, broken collar bone, fractured jaw, fractured shoulder, and shattered left face, and

WHEREAS, Bill Mock's medical bills exceed \$194,000, and

WHEREAS, as a result of his injuries, Bill Mock was unable to continue his employment with the employment consulting firm for which he served as Vice President, and

WHEREAS, although Bill Mock continues to work in his field, doing business out of his home, he cannot operate at the executive level where he previously functioned and his yearly income has been reduced by more than 60 percent, and

WHEREAS, due to his physical and mental limitations, Bill Mock and his wife, Susan Mock, can no longer enjoy the activities they once enjoyed, and

WHEREAS, in order to pay their bills and make ends meet, the Mocks have had to deplete all of their retirement savings and their financial picture is bleak, and

WHEREAS, a lawsuit was filed against St. Johns County on November 12, 1997, and

WHEREAS, one month prior to trial, a stipulated settlement was reached in which St. Johns County agreed to pay Bill Mock and Susan Mock a total of \$360,000 to settle this dispute, and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County has paid \$190,000 to Bill Mock and Susan Mock, pursuant to the limits of liability set forth in section 768.28, Florida Statutes, and agrees to support a claim bill in the amount of \$170,000, 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. St. Johns County is authorized and directed to appropriate from funds of the county not otherwise appropriated and to draw a warrant in the sum of \$170,000 payable to William D. Mock and Susan G. Mock as compensation for injuries sustained due to the negligence of St. Johns County.

Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2000.

Approved by the Governor April 20, 2000.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 20, 2000.