

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act for the relief of Aaron Edwards, a minor, by
 3 Lee Memorial Health System of Lee County; providing
 4 for an appropriation to compensate Aaron Edwards for
 5 damages sustained as a result of medical negligence by
 6 employees of Lee Memorial Health System of Lee County;
 7 providing a limitation on the payment of fees and
 8 costs; providing an effective date.

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 10 WHEREAS, Aaron Edwards was born on September 5, 1997, at
 11 Lee Memorial Hospital, and

12 WHEREAS, Aaron Edwards suffered permanent injuries to his
 13 brain as a consequence of an acute hypoxic ischemic episode at
 14 birth, and

15 WHEREAS, after a 6-week trial, a jury in Lee County
 16 returned a verdict in favor of Aaron Edwards, finding Lee
 17 Memorial Health System 100 percent responsible for Aaron
 18 Edwards' injuries and awarded a total of \$28,477,966.48 to the
 19 Guardianship of Aaron Edwards, and

20 WHEREAS, the court also awarded \$174,969.65 in taxable
 21 costs, and

22 WHEREAS, Lee Memorial Health System tendered \$200,000
 23 toward payment of this claim, in accordance with the statutory
 24 limits of liability set forth in s. 768.28, Florida Statutes,

25 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

31 Section 2. Lee Memorial Health System, formerly known as
 32 the Hospital Board of Directors of Lee County, is authorized and
 33 directed to appropriate from funds not otherwise appropriated
 34 and to draw a warrant as compensation for the injuries suffered
 35 by Aaron Edwards in the sum of \$1,000,000 by July 1 of each year
 36 beginning in 2012 through 2021, inclusive for a total of
 37 \$10,000,000, payable to the Guardianship of Aaron Edwards to be
 38 placed in a special needs trust created for the exclusive use
 39 and benefit of Aaron Edwards, a minor.

40 Section 3. The amount paid by Lee Memorial Health System
 41 pursuant to s. 768.28, Florida Statutes, and the amount awarded
 42 under this act are intended to provide the sole compensation for
 43 all present and future claims arising out of the factual
 44 situation described in this act which resulted in the injuries
 45 suffered by Aaron Edwards. The total amount paid for attorney's
 46 fees, lobbying fees, costs, and other similar expenses relating
 47 to this claim may not exceed \$100,000.

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