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26 | area of his presence and that he was driving at such a high rate
 27 | of speed, and

28 | WHEREAS, Deputy Gracie's police cruiser struck the vehicle
 29 | in which Hilda Medrano was a passenger on the passenger side
 30 | door at a speed of 87 miles per hour, killing Hilda Medrano and
 31 | her cousin and severely injuring a second passenger in that
 32 | vehicle, and

33 | WHEREAS, the Florida Highway Patrol's investigation found
 34 | that Deputy Gracie violated s. 316.126(3) and (5), Florida
 35 | Statutes, and

36 | WHEREAS, an Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office internal
 37 | affairs department investigation found that Deputy Gracie's
 38 | actions were unbecoming of an officer and in violation of four
 39 | standard operating procedures of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's
 40 | Office, and

41 | WHEREAS, at the time of her death, Hilda Medrano was a 21-
 42 | year-old college student with dreams of becoming an X-ray
 43 | technician, and

44 | WHEREAS, Hilda Medrano's parents, Ricardo Medrano-Arzate
 45 | and Eva Chavez-Medrano, are legal immigrants to the United
 46 | States, who came to this country to work and provide their
 47 | children with opportunities to achieve the American dream and
 48 | have resided in the Mexican-American community in Okeechobee for
 49 | more than 30 years, and

50 | WHEREAS, Ricardo Medrano-Arzate's and Eva Chavez-Medrano's

51 | dreams for their daughter Hilda Medrano were destroyed by the
 52 | reckless actions of Deputy Gracie, and

53 | WHEREAS, after a 4-day trial, a jury awarded Ricardo
 54 | Medrano-Arzate and Eva Chavez-Medrano, as personal
 55 | representatives of Hilda Medrano, \$5 million in damages, and

56 | WHEREAS, based on the jury's apportionment of fault,
 57 | finding that Deputy Gracie was 88.5 percent liable for the
 58 | collision, the trial court reduced the jury's award to
 59 | \$4,425,000, and that decision was affirmed by the Fourth
 60 | District Court of Appeal, and

61 | WHEREAS, in accordance with the statutory limits of
 62 | liability set forth in s. 768.28, Florida Statutes, the
 63 | Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office settled the claims of the
 64 | other two victims but has not paid any money toward the damages
 65 | awarded to Ricardo Medrano-Arzate and Eva Chavez-Medrano, as
 66 | personal representatives of Hilda Medrano, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

72 | Section 2. The Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office is
 73 | authorized and directed to appropriate from funds not otherwise
 74 | encumbered and to draw a warrant in the sum of \$4,425,000
 75 | payable to Ricardo Medrano-Arzate and Eva Chavez-Medrano for

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76 damages awarded in connection with the death of their daughter,
77 Hilda Medrano.

78 Section 3. The amount paid by the Okeechobee County
79 Sheriff's Office and awarded under this act is intended to
80 provide the sole compensation for all present and future claims
81 arising out of the factual situation described in this act which
82 resulted in the award of damages to Ricardo Medrano-Arzate and
83 Eva Chavez-Medrano, as personal representatives of Hilda
84 Medrano. The total amount paid for attorney fees relating to
85 this claim may not exceed \$885,000, the total amount paid for
86 lobbying fees may not exceed \$221,250, and the total amount paid
87 for costs or other similar expenses may not exceed \$4,030.89.

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