

SB 12: Relief of Mark LaGatta/Department of Transportation

Summary:

The bill discusses an incident where Mark LaGatta and his daughter were involved in a collision on State Road 24 due to the negligence of the Department of Transportation, resulting in severe injuries to Mr. LaGatta, including the amputation of his left leg. The bill appropriates \$2.2 million from the General Revenue Fund to compensate Mr. LaGatta for his injuries and damages. The Department of Transportation has already paid \$120,000 to Mr. LaGatta and has agreed to support this claim bill.

Cons	Pros
1) This bill sets a precedent of using taxpayer money to compensate individuals for damages and injuries caused by government negligence, potentially opening the floodgates for numerous similar claims and draining public funds. 2) Allowing such a significant appropriation without clear limitations on future claims or thorough investigation of the circumstances could encourage frivolous lawsuits and misuse of public resources. 3) The percentage cap on attorney fees at 25% may still result in significant payouts that could have been better utilized for broader public welfare programs or infrastructure improvements.	1) The bill provides relief for Mark LaGatta by compensating him for severe injuries and damages sustained due to the negligence of the Department of Transportation, helping him cover medical expenses and lost earnings. 2) It ensures that Mr. LaGatta receives the appropriate financial support for his ongoing needs and limits the amount paid for attorney fees, ensuring a significant portion of the compensation directly benefits the victim. 3) The bill sets a clear limitation on compensation, preventing excessive payouts while still adequately addressing the harm caused, providing a fair and just resolution for Mr. LaGatta's suffering.