

SB 12: Relief of Mark LaGatta/Department of Transportation

Summary:

The bill discusses the case of Mark LaGatta who was involved in a motorcycle accident due to the negligence of the Department of Transportation during roadwork. Mr. LaGatta suffered severe injuries and had his left leg amputated as a result of the collision. The bill proposes an appropriation of \$2.2 million to compensate Mr. LaGatta for his injuries and damages, limiting attorney fees to 25% of the total compensation amount. The bill aims to provide sole compensation for all present and future claims related to the incident.

Cons	Pros
1) This bill sets a precedent for compensating individuals for accidents caused by negligence, potentially opening the floodgates for numerous claims against the Department of Transportation, which could strain the state's finances and resources. 2) Allocating \$2.2 million from the General Revenue Fund to compensate Mr. LaGatta may be seen as unfair to taxpayers who had no direct involvement in the accident, sparking discontent and opposition towards the bill. 3) The restriction on attorney fees not exceeding 25% of the total amount awarded could deter legal representation for future claimants with legitimate grievances, limiting their ability to seek proper compensation for damages.	1) This bill provides compensation to Mark LaGatta for severe injuries and damages he sustained due to the negligence of the Department of Transportation, helping him cover medical expenses, lost earnings, and future care needs. 2) By appropriating \$2.2 million from the General Revenue Fund, the bill ensures that Mr. LaGatta receives financial relief for his pain, suffering, and lost capacity for the enjoyment of life. 3) The limitation on attorney fees ensures that a significant portion of the compensation goes directly to Mark LaGatta, providing him with adequate support for his current and future needs.