



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SPECIAL MASTER ON CLAIM BILLS

Location
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November 19, 1999

<u>SPECIAL MASTER'S FINAL REPORT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>COMM</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
The Honorable Toni Jennings President, The Florida Senate Suite 409, The Capitol Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100	11/19/99	SM GO WM	Unfavorable

Re: SB 44 - Senator Charlie Bronson
Relief of Johnny Stubbs

THIS IS AN EQUITABLE CLAIM SEEKING PAYMENT OF DISABILITY RETIREMENT BENEFITS FROM THE DATE THAT CLAIMANT RETIRED THROUGH THE END OF HIS PROJECTED LIFE EXPECTANCY.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Mr. Johnny Stubbs, SSN 413-72-6636, was employed as a firefighter for the Reedy Creek Improvement District, a government agency, from May 24, 1971 through April 29, 1988.

Mr. Stubbs retired effective November 1, 1988.

Senate Bill 44 asserts that the claimant was injured during the course of his employment and in the line of duty when Mr. Stubbs pulled a young man from a burning car that had turned upside down. Further, the bill asserts that Mr. Stubbs is 100 percent disabled and that he should have received disability compensation instead of early-retirement benefits.

A telephonic hearing was conducted on October 19, 1999, for the parties to stipulate to as many factual issues as possible and to identify disputed facts for trial at hearing.

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A hearing was scheduled for October 29, 1999, but the claimant, who represented himself in the matter, contacted the Special Master and the office of Senator Bronson on October 26, 1999, to request that the hearing be canceled.

By letter dated October 28, 1999, Senator Bronson notified the Secretary of the Senate that Mr. Stubbs had requested that the matter not be pursued. Further, Senator Bronson advised that he will withdraw the bill at the beginning of the 2000 Regular Session.

As a result, the hearing scheduled in this matter was canceled.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Mr. Stubbs is a member of the Florida Retirement System.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The claimant requested that the hearing be canceled and, as a result, the claimant's case was not proven. Therefore, it is recommended that SB 44 be reported UNFAVORABLY.

Respectfully submitted,

James Parker Rhea
Senate Special Master

cc: Senator Charlie Bronson
Faye Blanton, Secretary of the Senate
Leonard Schulte, House Special Master

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