Supreme Court of Florida

No. SC95925

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, et al., Petitioners,

vs.

JIMMY HOGAN, Respondent.

[February 22, 2001]

QUINCE, J.

We have for review a decision on the following question of great public

importance certified by the First District Court of Appeal in Department of

Transportation v. Hogan, 24 Fla. L. Weekly D1507 (Fla. 1st DCA June 22, 1999):

WHERE AN EMPLOYER TAKES A WORKERS' COMPENSATION OFFSET UNDER SECTION 440.20(15), FLORIDA STATUTES (1985), AND INITIALLY INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS PAID UNDER SECTION 440.15(1)(e)(1), FLORIDA STATUTES (1985), IS THE EMPLOYER ENTITLED TO RECALCULATE THE OFFSET BASED ON THE

YEARLY 5% INCREASE IN SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS?

We have jurisdiction. See art. V, § 3(b)(4), Fla. Const. For the reasons expressed

in City of Clearwater v. Acker, 755 So. 2d 597 (Fla. 1999), we answer the certified

question in the negative and approve the First District's decision in this case.

It is so ordered.

WELLS, C.J., and SHAW, HARDING, ANSTEAD, PARIENTE and LEWIS, JJ., concur.

NOT FINAL UNTIL TIME EXPIRES TO FILE REHEARING MOTION, AND IF FILED, DETERMINED.

Application for Review of the Decision of the District Court of Appeal -Certified Great Public Importance

First District - Case No. 1D98-3908

Nancy A Lauten of Fowler, White, Gillen, Boggs, Villareal & Banker, P.A., Tampa, Florida,

for Petitioners

Randall O. Reder, Tampa, Florida, and Thomas Cassidy, Lakeland, Florida,

for Respondent