

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the pension of retired Deputy Scot
3 Peterson; declaring that Deputy Scot Peterson, retired
4 from the Broward County Sheriff's Office, shall
5 forfeit all rights and benefits under the Florida
6 Retirement System due to his wanton or willful neglect
7 in the performance of his assigned duties and
8 contravention of his oath of office; providing an
9 effective date.

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11 WHEREAS, on February 14, 2018, Deputy Scot Peterson of the
12 Broward County Sheriff's Office was the only school resource
13 officer assigned to Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, and

14 WHEREAS, according to the initial report of the Marjory
15 Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission, the
16 Broward County Sheriff's Office had trained Deputy Peterson on
17 active shooter response, he was familiar with solo-deputy
18 response protocols, and he knew that the appropriate response to
19 an active shooter was to seek out the shooter and not
20 "containment," and

21 WHEREAS, according to the commission report, Deputy
22 Peterson knew that an active shooter situation called for a Code
23 Red response and that, based on the commission's interviews
24 conducted with Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School personnel,

25 | during the shooting on February 14, 2018, Deputy Peterson never
26 | called a Code Red over the school radio, and

27 | WHEREAS, the commission report found that Deputy Scot
28 | Peterson was derelict in his duty on February 14, 2018, failed
29 | to act consistently with his training, and fled to a position of
30 | personal safety while the gunman shot and killed Marjory
31 | Stoneman Douglas High School students and staff, and

32 | WHEREAS, Deputy Scot Peterson was in a position to engage
33 | the gunman and mitigate further harm to others, and he willfully
34 | decided not to do so, and

35 | WHEREAS, there was overwhelming evidence identified in the
36 | commission report that Deputy Scot Peterson knew that the
37 | gunshots were coming from within the immediate area of building
38 | 12, but there is no evidence to suggest that Peterson attempted
39 | to investigate the source of the gunshots, and

40 | WHEREAS, the commission report found that on February 14,
41 | 2018, the Broward County Sheriff's Office's response to Marjory
42 | Stoneman Douglas High School was hindered in part by Deputy Scot
43 | Peterson's erroneous directions and other improper information
44 | he relayed over the office's main radio channel, and

45 | WHEREAS, there is ample evidence that Deputy Scot Peterson
46 | has contravened his oath of office as set forth in Article II,
47 | section 5 of the Florida Constitution, to "...faithfully perform
48 | the duties" of a deputy sheriff of Broward County, Florida, and

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49 WHEREAS, Scot Peterson is guilty of wanton or willful
50 neglect in the performance of his assigned duties on February
51 14, 2018, NOW, THEREFORE,

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53 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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55 Section 1. Scot Peterson shall forfeit all rights and
56 benefits under chapter 121, Florida Statutes, except the return
57 of any accumulated contributions, as of the effective date of
58 this act.

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Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.