

By Senator Gruters

23-01782-19

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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.

10  
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

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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 incorrect 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

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,

52  
53 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

54  
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.