



# HOUSE BILL 50: Allow Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for TBI/PTSD.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Homeland Security, Military, and Veterans Affairs. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	March 12, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Murphy, Grange, Martin, Speciale	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Billy R. Godwin Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 50 would allow veterans residing in this State diagnosed with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) by an authorized medical professional to receive hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment (HBOT) in the State.*

*The act would become effective October 1, 2019.*

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 50 would enact the *North Carolina Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Treatment and Recovery Act of 2019*. This act would authorize a North Carolina licensed doctor of medicine, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or doctor of osteopathy to prescribe HBOT in this State to a resident veteran diagnosed with TBI or PTSD. The act would require HBOT to comply with approved treatment protocols.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act would become effective October 1, 2019.

**BACKGROUND:** HBOT is a procedure where patients receive 100 percent oxygen in a pressurized chamber where the air pressure is up to three times above normal atmospheric pressure. Hyperbaric (high pressure) oxygen increases the amount of dissolved oxygen in the blood being carried to organs and connective tissues.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/forconsumers/consumerupdates/ucm364687.htm>

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