



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

2019-2020 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	July 8, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Murphy, Grange, Martin, Speciale	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jessica Boney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 50 would enact the North Carolina Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Treatment and Recovery Act of 2019. The act would allow a veteran residing in North Carolina and diagnosed with traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder by an authorized medical professional to receive hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment in the State. The act would become effective October 1, 2019.*

## BILL ANALYSIS:

**Section 1** would call for the act to be known as the North Carolina Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Treatment and Recovery Act of 2019.

**Sections 2(a) and 2(c)** would be reserved for future codification.

**Section 2(b)** would amend Chapter 122C Mental Health, Article 6 Special Provisions, to add a new Part 5 pertaining to Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Services for Veterans. The new Part 5 would define: "authorized medical professional," "hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment," and "veteran." The statute would provide that any veteran residing in North Carolina diagnosed with TBI or PTSD by an authorized medical professional could receive hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment in this State. Authorized medical professionals who prescribed hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment to a veteran for the treatment of TBI or PTSD would have to do so in a manner that complied with the standard approved treatment protocol for the therapy.

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

\* Legislative Analyst Theresa Matula substantially contributed to this summary.

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