



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

2019-2020 General Assembly

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| Committee: | House Health. If favorable, re-refer to Homeland Security, Military, and Veterans Affairs. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House | Date: | February 21, 2019 |
| Introduced by: | Reps. Murphy, Grange, Martin, Speciale | Prepared by: | Theresa Matula Committee Staff |
| Analysis of: | First Edition | | |

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 provides that the act will 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) reserve specified statutory sections for future codification.

Section 2(b) amends 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 defines the following terms: "authorized medical professional," "hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment," and "veteran." The statute provides that any veteran residing in North Carolina diagnosed with TBI or PTSD by an authorized medical professional may receive hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment in this State. Authorized medical professionals who provide or prescribe hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment to a veteran for the treatment of TBI or PTSD must do so in a manner that complies with the standard approved treatment protocol for the therapy.

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

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