

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

H

2

HOUSE BILL 50  
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/26/19

Short Title: Allow Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for TBI/PTSD.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 13, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS TO PRESCRIBE  
3 HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY FOR VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN  
4 INJURY AND POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.

5 Whereas, hyperbaric oxygen therapy is a recognized and accepted treatment for  
6 wound care and inflammation disorders; and

7 Whereas, traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder are recognized to  
8 result from brain injuries and subsequent inflammation; Now, therefore,  
9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the "North Carolina  
11 Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Treatment and Recovery Act  
12 of 2019."

13 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 122C-455 through G.S. 122C-464. Reserved for future  
14 codification purposes.

15 **SECTION 2.(b)** Article 6 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes is amended by  
16 adding a new Part to read:

17 "Part 5. Traumatic Brain Injury and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Services for Veterans.

18 "**§ 122C-465. Definitions.**

19 As used in this Part, the following definitions apply:

- 20 (1) Authorized medical professional. – A doctor of medicine, nurse practitioner,  
21 physician assistant, or doctor of osteopathy licensed to practice in this State.  
22 (2) Hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment. – Treatment with a valid prescription  
23 from an authorized medical professional in either a hyperbaric chamber  
24 approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or a  
25 device with an appropriate FDA-approved investigational device exemption.  
26 (3) Veteran. – A person who served on active duty, other than for training, in any  
27 component of the Armed Forces of the United States for a period of 180 days  
28 or more, unless released earlier because of service-connected disability, and  
29 who was discharged or released from the Armed Forces of the United States  
30 under other than dishonorable conditions.

31 "**§ 122C-465.1. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment authorized.**

32 (a) No person other than an authorized medical professional shall prescribe hyperbaric  
33 oxygen therapy treatment to a veteran for the treatment of traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic  
34 stress disorder. Any authorized medical professional who prescribes hyperbaric oxygen therapy  
35 treatment to a veteran for traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder shall do so in a  
36 manner that complies with the standard approved treatment protocols for this therapy.



1        (b)    Any veteran residing in North Carolina who has been diagnosed with a traumatic  
2 brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder by an authorized medical professional may receive  
3 hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment in this State."

4            **SECTION 2.(c)** G.S. 122C-465.2 through G.S. 122C-465.5. Reserved for future  
5 codification purposes.

6            **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2019.