

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019**

**SESSION LAW 2019-175  
HOUSE BILL 50**

AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS TO PRESCRIBE  
HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY FOR VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN  
INJURY AND POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.

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

Whereas, traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder are recognized to result from brain injuries and subsequent inflammation; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

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

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

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

**"§ 122C-465. Definitions.**

As used in this Part, the following definitions apply:

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

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

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

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



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

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

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019.

s/ Carl Ford  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

s/ Tim Moore  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Roy Cooper  
Governor

Approved 12:12 p.m. this 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019