

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021**

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SENATE BILL 442

Short Title: Funds for Veterans/HBOT. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Davis (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 1, 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO PROVIDE FOR HYPERBARIC OXYGEN
2 THERAPY TREATMENT FOR NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS SUFFERING FROM
3 TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI) AND POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER
4 (PTSD).
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6 Whereas, North Carolina proudly has one of the largest veteran populations in the
7 country; and

8 Whereas, hyperbaric oxygen therapy is a recognized and accepted treatment for
9 healing wounds and other medical conditions; and

10 Whereas, the people of North Carolina are grateful to all of our heroic veterans for
11 their selfless service to our State and our nation; and

12 Whereas, S.L. 2019-175, "An Act Authorizing Certain Medical Professionals to
13 Prescribe Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy For Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury and
14 Posttraumatic Stress Disorder" became law on July 26, 2019; and

15 Whereas, it is vital to make hyperbaric oxygen therapy accessible to veterans; Now,
16 therefore,

17 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

18 **SECTION 1.** Program Established. – Within the funds made available pursuant to
19 Section 2 of this act, the Community Foundation of NC East, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, shall
20 provide hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment to veterans who are residents of North Carolina
21 with a diagnosis of traumatic brain injury (TBI) or posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at no
22 cost to the veteran. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment provided to a veteran pursuant to this
23 section shall be provided in accordance with Part 5 of Article 6 of Chapter 122C of the General
24 Statutes.

25 **SECTION 2.** Appropriation. – There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
26 Office of State Budget and Management the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars
27 (\$150,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to provide a grant to the
28 Community Foundation of NC East, Inc., to provide hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment to
29 veterans in accordance with this act.

30 **SECTION 3.** Report. – By March 1, 2023, the Community Foundation of NC East,
31 Inc., shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on
32 the provision of hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment to veterans, including the use of State
33 funds.

34 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.

