

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

H.B. 483
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30167-MS-40 (02/01)

Short Title: Vet. Posttraumatic Stress/Mitigating Factor. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives G. Martin, Zachary, Reives, and Rogers (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT A COURT MAY CONSIDER POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS
3 DISORDER AS A MITIGATING FACTOR WHEN SENTENCING A PERSON WHO IS
4 A VETERAN.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 15A-1340.16(e) is amended by adding a new subdivision to
7 read:

8 "(14a) The defendant has been diagnosed as suffering from posttraumatic stress
9 disorder resulting from his or her military service and is undergoing
10 professional treatment for that condition. As used in this section,
11 "posttraumatic stress disorder" means the same as such term is defined in the
12 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, DSM-5, or
13 subsequent editions published by the American Psychiatric Association, and
14 occurred as a result of events during the service of the defendant in one or
15 more combat zones. The defendant shall provide to the court documentary
16 evidence that the defendant has done all of the following:

17 a. Served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America in a
18 combat zone, as defined in section 112 of the federal Internal
19 Revenue Code of 1986. Proof of such service shall consist of a
20 certification by the Secretary of Military and Veterans Affairs.

21 b. Been diagnosed with a posttraumatic stress disorder connected to his
22 or her service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America."

23 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2017.

