

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 584
Apr 15, 2021
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH50020-ND-77A

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

Sponsors: Representatives Hardister, Szoka, and Martin (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 read:
7 "(e) Mitigating Factors. – The following are mitigating factors:

8 ...

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

- 18 a. Served in the Armed Forces of the United States in a combat zone, as
19 the term is defined in Section 112 of the United States Internal
20 Revenue Code of 1986. Proof of service shall consist of either a
21 certification by the Secretary of Military and Veterans Affairs or a
22 United States Department of Defense Form DD-214.
23 b. Been diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder connected to the
24 defendant's service in the Armed Forces of the United States of
25 America.

26"

27 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2021, and applies to offenses
28 committed on or after that date.

