
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 501 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY GUENST, SCHLOSSBERG, RABB, HILL-EVANS, SANCHEZ,
MADDEN, FREEMAN, STURLA AND O'MARA, MARCH 17, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 17, 2023

AN ACT

1 Providing funding to the Department of Military and Veterans
2 Affairs for the purpose of providing current service members
3 and veterans with access to high-definition fiber tracking
4 brain scans and supporting ongoing clinical research in this
5 Commonwealth involving traumatic brain injuries; and making
6 an appropriation.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Short title.

10 This act shall be known and may be cited as the High-
11 Definition Fiber Tracking (HDFT) for Veterans Act.

12 Section 2. Definitions.

13 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
14 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
15 context clearly indicates otherwise:

16 "Brain scan equipment." Health care imaging equipment
17 capable of identifying brain damage by graphic depiction of
18 individual nerve tracts.

19 "Department." The Department of Military and Veterans

1 Affairs of the Commonwealth.

2 "Eligible center." A health care facility designated by the
3 department to provide access to HDFT brain scans.

4 "HDFT." A brain scan employing high-definition fiber
5 tracking technology.

6 Section 3. Military members and veterans.

7 (a) Diagnosis.--Any military veteran or active duty or
8 reserve member of the United States Armed Forces or National
9 Guard who has symptoms of traumatic brain injury or
10 posttraumatic stress or evidence of combat-related concussion
11 shall be eligible to receive diagnostic treatment through the
12 use of the new HDFT technology using equipment located in this
13 Commonwealth.

14 (b) Eligible centers.--The military veteran shall visit an
15 eligible center in order to begin the process for the use of the
16 diagnostic technology.

17 (c) Brain scan equipment.--The equipment shall be purchased
18 or leased and provided to eligible centers to provide access to
19 HDFT technology throughout this Commonwealth.

20 Section 4. Regulations.

21 The department shall promulgate regulations for the
22 implementation of this act. The regulations shall allow for the
23 maximum number of military members and veterans to be able to
24 use the HDFT technology.

25 Section 5. Appropriation.

26 The sum of \$1,000,000, or as much thereof as may be
27 necessary, is appropriated to the department for the fiscal year
28 July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, to carry out the provisions
29 of this act.

30 Section 6. Funding.

1 (a) Eligible centers.--The sum of \$500,000 shall be
2 distributed by the department to all eligible centers
3 proportionally based on the number of veterans and active
4 members served at each eligible center. The money received by
5 each eligible center shall be used to pay for hardware and
6 software costs of the diagnostic technology and administrative
7 expenses of the eligible center directly related to the
8 provision of HDFT scans to military members and veterans.

9 (b) Brain scan equipment.--The sum of \$500,000 shall be
10 distributed by the department to ensure availability of the
11 diagnostic technology at eligible centers throughout this
12 Commonwealth.

13 Section 7. Effective date.

14 This act shall take effect in 60 days.