By Senator Burgess

	23-00312A-24 2024174
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to veterans' long term care facilities
3	admissions; amending s. 296.02, F.S.; revising
4	definitions; amending s. 296.03, F.S.; revising
5	eligibility for residency in the Veteran's Domiciliary
6	Home of Florida to include specified individuals;
7	amending s. 296.08, F.S.; adding such individuals to
8	the priority of admittance schedule; amending s.
9	296.32, F.S.; revising the legislative purpose of part
10	II of ch. 296, F.S., to conform to changes made by the
11	act; amending s. 296.33, F.S.; revising the definition
12	of "resident"; amending s. 296.36, F.S.; revising the
13	admission eligibility for veterans' nursing homes to
14	include specified individuals; revising the priority
15	of admissions to include such individuals; providing
16	an effective date.
17	
18	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
19	
20	Section 1. Subsections (1), (4), (8), and (10) of section
21	296.02, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
22	296.02 DefinitionsFor the purposes of this part, except
23	where the context clearly indicates otherwise:
24	(1) "Applicant" means a veteran with wartime service or
25	peacetime service, as defined in this section, the spouse or
26	surviving spouse of such veteran, or a parent of a child who
27	died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, who
28	is not in need of hospitalization or nursing home care.
29	(4) "Domiciliary care" means shelter, sustenance, and

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30	incidental medical care provided on an ambulatory self-care
31	basis to assist eligible <u>applicants</u> veterans who are disabled by
32	age or disease, but who are not in need of hospitalization or
33	nursing home care services.
34	(8) "Resident" means any eligible <u>applicant</u> veteran
35	admitted to residency in the home.
36	(10) "Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida," hereinafter
37	referred to as the "home," means a home established by the state
38	for veterans who served in wartime service or in peacetime
39	service, as defined in this section, the spouses or surviving
40	spouses of such veterans, or the parents of a child who died
41	while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.
42	Section 2. Section 296.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to
43	read:
44	296.03 Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida.—The Veterans'
45	Domiciliary Home of Florida is for veterans who served in
46	wartime service or peacetime service, as defined in s. 296.02,
47	the spouses or surviving spouses of such veterans, or the
48	parents of a child who died while serving in the Armed Forces of
49	the United States, and is maintained for the use of those
50	individuals veterans who are not in need of hospitalization or
51	nursing home care and who can attend to their personal needs,
52	dress themselves, and attend a general dining facility, or who
53	are in need of extended congregate care.
54	Section 3. Paragraphs (e) and (f) are added to subsection
55	(1) of section 296.08, Florida Statutes, to read:
56	296.08 Priority of admittance
57	(1) In determining the eligibility of applicants to the
58	home, the administrator shall give admittance priority in
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59accordance with the following schedule:60(e) Those spouses or surviving spouses of veterans.61(f) Those parents of children who died while serving in the62Armed Forces of the United States.63Section 4. Section 296.32, Florida Statutes, is amended to64read:65296.32 PurposeThe purpose of this part is to provide for66the establishment of basic standards for the operation of67veterans' nursing homes for eligible veterans, the spouses or68surviving spouses of such veterans, or the parents of a child69who died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States,70who are in need of such services.71Section 5. Subsection (5) of section 296.33, Florida72Statutes, is amended to read:73296.33 DefinitionsAs used in this part, the term:74(5) "Resident" means any eligible veteran, the spouse or75surviving spouse of such veteran, or a parent of a child who76died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, who77is admitted to the home.78Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 296.36, Florida79Statutes, is amended, and paragraphs (d) and (e) are added to79subsection (3) of that section, to read:70296.36 Eligibility and priority of admittance71To be eligible for admittance to the home, the person73subsection (3) of that section, to read:7410 To be eligible for admittance to the home, the person75	1	23-00312A-24 2024174
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<pre>85 surviving spouse of a veteran, or the parents of a child who 86 died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and</pre>	83	must be a veteran as provided in s. 1.01(14) or have eligible
86 died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and	84	peacetime service as defined in s. 296.02 <u>, or be the spouse or</u>
	85	surviving spouse of a veteran, or the parents of a child who
87 must:	86	died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and
	87	must:

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88	(a) Be in need of nursing home care.
89	(b) Be a resident of the state at the time of application
90	for admission to the home.
91	(c) Not owe money to the department for services rendered
92	during any previous stay at a department facility.
93	(d) Have applied for all financial assistance reasonably
94	available through governmental sources.
95	(e) Have been approved as eligible for care and treatment
96	by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
97	(3) Admittance priority must be given to eligible veterans
98	in the following order of priority:
99	(d) A spouse or a surviving spouse of such veteran as
100	described in this subsection.
101	(e) A parent of a child who died while serving in the Armed
102	Forces of the United States.
103	Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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