

By Senator Saunders

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Veterans' Nursing Home of Florida Act; amending s. 296.36, F.S.; authorizing the director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to waive the residency requirement for admittance to a veterans' nursing home under certain circumstances; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 296.36, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

296.36 Eligibility and priority of admittance.--

(1) To be eligible for admittance to the home, the person must be a veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14) and must:

(a) Be in need of nursing home care.

(b) Have been a resident of the state for 1 year immediately preceding, and at the time of application for, admission to the home.

(c) Not owe money to the department for services rendered during any previous stay at a department facility.

(d) Have applied for all financial assistance reasonably available through governmental sources.

(2) The director may waive the residency requirement for a veteran who is otherwise eligible for admittance to a home. The waiver must be limited to a veteran who is a disaster evacuee of a state that is under a declared state of emergency.

(3)(2) Admittance priority must be given to an eligible veteran ~~afforded~~ in the following order of priority

1 ~~to an eligible veteran who is in need of nursing home care and~~
2 ~~who:~~

3 (a) An eligible veteran who is a resident of the State
4 of Florida.

5 ~~(b)(a)~~ An eligible veteran who has a service-connected
6 disability as determined by the United States Department of
7 Veterans Affairs, or was discharged or released from military
8 service for disability incurred or aggravated in the line of
9 duty and the disability is the condition for which nursing
10 home care is needed.

11 ~~(c)(b)~~ An eligible veteran who has a
12 non-service-connected disability and is unable to defray the
13 expense of nursing home care and so states under oath before a
14 notary public or other officer authorized to administer an
15 oath.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

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19 SENATE SUMMARY

20 Authorizes the director of the Department of Veterans'
21 Affairs to waive the residency requirement for admittance
22 to a veterans' nursing home under certain circumstances.