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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 under Florida law 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.

1           ~~(3)(2)~~ Admittance priority must be given to eligible  
2 veterans ~~afforded~~ in the following order of priority ~~to an~~  
3 ~~eligible veteran who is in need of nursing home care and who:~~  
4           ~~(a)~~ An eligible veteran who is a resident of the State  
5 of Florida.  
6           ~~(b)(a)~~ An eligible veteran who has a service-connected  
7 disability as determined by the United States Department of  
8 Veterans Affairs, or was discharged or released from military  
9 service for disability incurred or aggravated in the line of  
10 duty and the disability is the condition for which nursing  
11 home care is needed.  
12           ~~(c)(b)~~ An eligible veteran who has a  
13 non-service-connected disability and is unable to defray the  
14 expense of nursing home care and so states under oath before a  
15 notary public or other officer authorized to administer an  
16 oath.  
17           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.  
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