

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

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

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

12 296.36 Eligibility and priority of admittance.--

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

15 (a) Be in need of nursing home care.

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

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

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

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

HB 955

2006

28 ~~(3)-(2)~~ Admittance priority must be given to eligible
29 veterans ~~afforded~~ in the following order of priority ~~to an~~
30 ~~eligible veteran who is in need of nursing home care and who:~~

31 (a) An eligible veteran who is a resident of the State of
32 Florida.

33 (b)-(a) An eligible veteran who has a service-connected
34 disability as determined by the United States Department of
35 Veterans Affairs, or was discharged or released from military
36 service for disability incurred or aggravated in the line of
37 duty and the disability is the condition for which nursing home
38 care is needed.

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

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