

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to state veterans' nursing homes;  
 3           creating s. 296.42, F.S.; directing the Department of  
 4           Veterans' Affairs to contract for a study to determine  
 5           the need for additional state veterans' nursing homes  
 6           and the most appropriate counties in which to locate  
 7           the homes; directing the department to submit the  
 8           study to the Governor and Legislature; providing study  
 9           criteria for ranking each county according to need;  
 10          requiring the department to use specified studies to  
 11          select new nursing home sites; directing the  
 12          department to contract for subsequent studies and  
 13          submit the studies to the Governor and Legislature;  
 14          providing an effective date.

15  
 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17  
 18           Section 1. Section 296.42, Florida Statutes, is created to  
 19           read:

20           296.42 Site selection process for state veterans' nursing  
 21           homes.—

22           (1) The department shall contract for a study to determine  
 23           the need for new state veterans' nursing homes and the most  
 24           appropriate counties in which to locate the homes based on the  
 25           greatest level of need. The department shall submit the study to  
 26           the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of

27 the House of Representatives by November 1, 2015.

28 (2) The study shall use the following criteria to rank  
29 each county according to need:

30 (a) The distance from the geographic center of the county  
31 to the nearest existing state veterans' nursing home.

32 (b) The number of veterans age 65 years or older residing  
33 in the county.

34 (c) The presence of an existing federal Veterans' Health  
35 Administration medical center or outpatient clinic in the  
36 county.

37 (d) Elements of emergency health care in the county, as  
38 determined by:

39 1. The number of general hospitals.

40 2. The number of emergency room holding beds per hospital.

41 3. The number of in-house physicians per hospital on staff  
42 in the emergency room 24 hours per day.

43 (e) The number of existing community nursing home beds per  
44 1,000 males age 65 years or older residing in the county.

45 (f) The presence of an accredited educational institution  
46 offering health care programs in the county.

47 (g) The county poverty rate.

48 (3) The department shall use the study ranking to select  
49 each new state veterans' nursing home site authorized before  
50 July 1, 2020, subject to approval by the Governor and Cabinet.  
51 For each new nursing home, the department shall select the  
52 highest-ranked county in the study which does not have a

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53 veterans' nursing home. If the highest-ranked county cannot  
54 serve as the site, the department shall select the next-highest  
55 ranked county. The department shall use the 2014 Site Selection  
56 Study to select a county for any new state veterans' nursing  
57 home authorized before November 1, 2015, subject to approval by  
58 the Governor and Cabinet.

59 (4) The department shall contract for and submit a new  
60 study in accordance with this section by November 1, 2019, and  
61 every 4 years thereafter.

62 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.