

26 hospitalization or nursing home care.

27 (4) "Domiciliary care" means shelter, sustenance, and
 28 incidental medical care provided on an ambulatory self-care
 29 basis to assist eligible applicants ~~veterans~~ who are disabled by
 30 age or disease, but who are not in need of hospitalization or
 31 nursing home care services.

32 (8) "Resident" means any eligible applicant ~~veteran~~
 33 admitted to residency in the home.

34 (10) "Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida," hereinafter
 35 referred to as the "home," means a home established by the state
 36 for veterans who served in wartime service or in peacetime
 37 service, as defined in this section, or the spouses or surviving
 38 spouses of such veterans.

39 Section 2. Section 296.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 40 read:

41 296.03 Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida.—The
 42 Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida is for veterans who served
 43 in wartime service or peacetime service, as defined in s.
 44 296.02, or the spouses or surviving spouses of such veterans,
 45 and is maintained for the use of those individuals ~~veterans~~ who
 46 are not in need of hospitalization or nursing home care and who
 47 can attend to their personal needs, dress themselves, and attend
 48 a general dining facility, or who are in need of extended
 49 congregate care.

50 Section 3. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (1) of

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51 section 296.08, Florida Statutes, to read:

52 296.08 Priority of admittance.—

53 (1) In determining the eligibility of applicants to the
54 home, the administrator shall give admittance priority in
55 accordance with the following schedule:

56 (e) The spouses or surviving spouses of veterans described
57 in this subsection.

58 Section 4. Section 296.32, Florida Statutes, is amended to
59 read:

60 296.32 Purpose.—The purpose of this part is to provide for
61 the establishment of basic standards for the operation of
62 veterans' nursing homes for eligible veterans and the spouses or
63 surviving spouses of such veterans who are in need of such
64 services.

65 Section 5. Subsection (5) of section 296.33, Florida
66 Statutes, is amended to read:

67 296.33 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

68 (5) "Resident" means any eligible veteran, or the spouse
69 or surviving spouse of such veteran, who is admitted to the
70 home.

71 Section 6. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 296.36,
72 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

73 296.36 Eligibility and priority of admittance.—

74 (1) To be eligible for admittance to the home, the person
75 must be a veteran as provided in s. 1.01(14) or have eligible

76 | peacetime service as defined in s. 296.02, or be the spouse or
 77 | surviving spouse of a veteran, and must:

78 | (a) Be in need of nursing home care.

79 | (b) Be a resident of the state at the time of application
 80 | for admission to the home.

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

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

85 | (e) Have been approved as eligible for care and treatment
 86 | by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

87 | (3) Admittance priority must be given to eligible persons
 88 | ~~veterans~~ in the following order of priority:

89 | (a) An eligible veteran who is a resident of the State of
 90 | Florida.

91 | (b) An eligible veteran who has a service-connected
 92 | disability as determined by the United States Department of
 93 | Veterans Affairs, or was discharged or released from military
 94 | service for disability incurred or aggravated in the line of
 95 | duty and the disability is the condition for which nursing home
 96 | care is needed.

97 | (c) An eligible veteran who has a non-service-connected
 98 | disability and is unable to defray the expense of nursing home
 99 | care and so states under oath before a notary public or other
 100 | officer authorized to administer an oath.

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101 (d) The spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran described
102 in this subsection.

103 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.