

By Senator Truenow

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to veterans' nursing homes; amending
3 s. 296.33, F.S.; defining the term "veteran- and
4 spouse-designated nursing home beds"; creating s.
5 296.411, F.S.; authorizing the executive director of
6 the Department of Veterans' Affairs to approve
7 requests to create or modify veteran- and spouse-
8 designated nursing home beds if certain conditions are
9 met; authorizing the department to adopt rules;
10 amending s. 408.036, F.S.; revising exemptions from
11 certificate of need requirements for certain projects
12 relating to veterans' nursing homes; providing an
13 effective date.

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

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17 Section 1. Subsection (7) is added to section 296.33,
18 Florida Statutes, to read:

19 296.33 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:
20 (7) "Veteran- and spouse-designated nursing home beds"
21 means beds that are designated only for residents admitted in
22 accordance with s. 296.36 to a licensed skilled nursing facility
23 on the campus of a retirement community qualified for nonprofit
24 status under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code which
25 provides housing for only veterans, their spouses, and surviving
26 spouses.

27 Section 2. Section 296.411, Florida Statutes, is created to
28 read:

29 296.411 Approval; veteran- and spouse-designated nursing

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30 home beds.—The director may approve requests to create or modify
31 veteran- and spouse-designated nursing home beds at a facility
32 so long as any such beds operate in the United States Department
33 of Veterans Affairs Community Nursing Home Program and are in
34 accordance with the requirements of ss. 296.35, 296.36, 296.37,
35 and 296.41. The department may adopt rules to administer this
36 section.

37 Section 3. Paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of section
38 408.036, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (n) is
39 added to that subsection, to read:

40 408.036 Projects subject to review; exemptions.—

41 (3) EXEMPTIONS.—Upon request, the following projects are
42 subject to exemption from subsection (1):

43 (f) For state veterans' nursing homes operated by or on
44 behalf of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs in
45 accordance with part II of chapter 296 for which ~~at least 50~~
46 ~~percent of the construction cost is federally funded by the~~
47 state or the Federal Government and for which the Federal
48 Government pays a per diem rate not to exceed one-half of the
49 cost of the veterans' care in such state nursing homes. These
50 beds may ~~shall~~ not be included in the nursing home bed
51 inventory.

52 (n) For the consolidation or combination of licensed
53 nursing homes or the transfer of beds between licensed nursing
54 homes that are for the sole use of veterans, their spouses, or
55 surviving spouses in accordance with part II of chapter 296, by
56 nursing homes with any shared controlled interest and if the
57 site of the relocation is not more than 100 miles from the
58 original location.

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Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.