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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to veteran and spouse nursing home
 beds; creating s. 296.415, F.S.; authorizing certain
 licensed skilled nursing facilities to request to
 designate or alter the designation of certain beds as
 veteran and spouse nursing home beds if specific
 criteria are met; authorizing the executive director
 of the Department of Veteran Affairs to approve such
 requests if specific criteria are met; authorizing the
 department to adopt rules; amending s. 408.036, F.S.;
 specifying conditions under which certain state
 veterans' nursing homes or certain licensed skilled
 nursing facilities are exempt from having to receive a
 certificate of need from the Agency for Health Care
 Administration; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 296.421, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

296.415 Veteran and spouse nursing home beds.—
(1) A licensed skilled nursing facility located on the
campus of a nonprofit retirement community that is exempt from
taxation under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and

26 provides housing exclusively for veterans, their spouses, and
 27 surviving spouses may request to designate certain beds or alter
 28 the designation of certain beds as veteran and spouse nursing
 29 home beds if:

30 (a) The residents who will be admitted meet the criteria
 31 of s. 296.36.

32 (b) The beds will be operated in accordance with the
 33 United States Department of Veteran Affairs Community Nursing
 34 Home Program.

35 (2)(a) The director may approve a request to designate or
 36 alter the designation of veteran and spouse nursing home beds if
 37 the request complies with the requirements of subsection (1) and
 38 ss. 296.35, 296.36, 296.37, and 296.41.

39 (b) The department may adopt rules to implement this
 40 section.

41 **Section 2. Paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of section**
 42 **408.036, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (n) is**
 43 **added to that section, to read:**

44 408.036 Projects subject to review; exemptions.—

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

47 (f) For state veterans' nursing homes operated by or on
 48 behalf of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs in
 49 accordance with part II of chapter 296 for which ~~at least 50~~
 50 ~~percent of~~ the construction cost is state or federally funded

51 and for which the Federal Government pays a per diem rate not to
52 exceed one-half of the cost of the veterans' care in such state
53 nursing homes. These beds shall not be included in the nursing
54 home bed inventory.

55 (n) For the consolidation or combination of licensed
56 skilled nursing facilities or the transfer of beds between
57 licensed skilled nursing facilities which are for the sole use
58 of veterans, their spouses, or surviving spouses in accordance
59 with s. 296.415. The original licensed skilled nursing facility
60 must have a shared controlling interest in the receiving
61 licensed skilled nursing facility, and the site of the receiving
62 licensed skilled nursing facility may not be located more than
63 100 miles from the site of the original licensed skilled nursing
64 facility.

65 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.