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1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to veteran and spouse nursing home 3 beds; creating s. 296.415, F.S.; authorizing certain 4 licensed skilled nursing facilities to request to 5 designate or alter the designation of certain beds as 6 veteran and spouse nursing home beds if specific 7 criteria are met; authorizing the executive director 8 of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to approve such 9 requests if specific criteria are met; authorizing the 10 department to adopt rules; amending s. 408.036, F.S.; 11 specifying conditions under which certain state 12 veterans' nursing homes or certain licensed skilled nursing facilities are exempt from having to receive a 13 14 certificate of need from the Agency for Health Care 15 Administration; providing an effective date. 16 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 18 19 Section 1. Section 296.415, Florida Statutes, is created 20 to read: 21 296.415 Veteran and spouse nursing home beds.-22 (1) A licensed skilled nursing facility located on the 23 campus of a nonprofit retirement community that is exempt from 24 taxation under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and 25 provides housing exclusively for veterans, their spouses, and Page 1 of 3

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26 surviving spouses may request to designate certain beds or alter 27 the designation of certain beds as veteran and spouse nursing 28 home beds if: 29 The residents who will be admitted meet the criteria (a) 30 of s. 296.36. 31 The beds will be operated in accordance with the (b) United States Department of Veteran Affairs Community Nursing 32 33 Home Program. 34 (2) (a) The director may approve a request to designate or 35 alter the designation of veteran and spouse nursing home beds if the request complies with the requirements of subsection (1) and 36 37 ss. 296.35, 296.36, 296.37, and 296.41. The department may adopt rules to implement this 38 (b) 39 section. 40 Section 2. Paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of section 408.036, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (n) is 41 42 added to that section, to read: 43 408.036 Projects subject to review; exemptions.-EXEMPTIONS.-Upon request, the following projects are 44 (3) 45 subject to exemption from subsection (1): (f) For state veterans' nursing homes operated by or on 46 behalf of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs in 47 48 accordance with part II of chapter 296 for which at least 50 49 percent of the construction cost is state or federally funded 50 and for which the Federal Government pays a per diem rate not to

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51	exceed one-half of the cost of the veterans' care in such state
52	nursing homes. These beds shall not be included in the nursing
53	home bed inventory.
54	(n) For the consolidation or combination of licensed
55	skilled nursing facilities or the transfer of beds between
56	licensed skilled nursing facilities which are for the sole use
57	of veterans, their spouses, or surviving spouses in accordance
58	with s. 296.415. The original licensed skilled nursing facility
59	must have a shared controlling interest in the receiving
60	licensed skilled nursing facility, and the site of the receiving
61	licensed skilled nursing facility may not be located more than
62	100 miles from the site of the original licensed skilled nursing
63	facility.
64	Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

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