



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

31 (b) The beds will be operated in accordance with the  
 32 United States Department of Veteran Affairs Community Nursing  
 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  
 36 the request complies with the requirements of subsection (1) and  
 37 ss. 296.35, 296.36, 296.37, and 296.41.

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

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

43 408.036 Projects subject to review; exemptions.—

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

46 (f) For state veterans' nursing homes operated by or on  
 47 behalf of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs in  
 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

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.