

2024 South Dakota Legislature
**House Concurrent Resolution
6007**

**AMENDMENT HCR6007A
FOR THE INTRODUCED RESOLUTION**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Encouraging the United States-~~Congress~~ Department**
2 **of Veterans Affairs to allow veterans to receive long-term care services at**
3 **facilities that do not otherwise meet the requirements set by the-~~United~~**
4 **States-Department-of-Veterans-Affairs department.**

5 WHEREAS, South Dakota has a population of approximately sixty-three thousand three
6 hundred and twenty-two resident veterans, of whom twenty thousand and seventy-one
7 veterans are older than the age of seventy; and

8 WHEREAS, the current and only state veterans nursing home, the Michael J. Fitzmaurice
9 South Dakota State Veterans Home, is located in the extreme southwestern part of the state,
10 in Hot Springs, South Dakota; and

11 WHEREAS, long-stay services are available for enrolled veterans who need nursing home
12 care for life or for an extended period of time if the veterans have a service-connected
13 disability rated sixty percent and who are unable to be employed, or if the veterans have a
14 seventy percent or greater service-connected disability; and

15 WHEREAS, the community nursing home program has contracts established with VA
16 medical centers to help meet the needs of veterans who require long-term nursing home care
17 in their own community, close to family, and meet the enrollment and eligibility requirements;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, a nursing home must meet the requirements established by the VA for
20 veterans to receive long term care services at the facility; and

21 WHEREAS, a veteran is eligible to be admitted to a community nursing home if the veteran
22 receives an increased pension based on the need for regular aid and attendance, because the
23 veteran must be permanently housed in a nursing home, or because the veteran is determined

1 to be catastrophically disabled by the chief of staff, of equivalent clinical officer, of the VA
2 facility where the veteran was examined; and

3 WHEREAS, any honorably discharged veteran who is at least seventy-nine years and one
4 day old receives full access to VA medical care based solely on the veterans honorable
5 discharge and age; and

6 WHEREAS, as our nation's veteran population ages, the United States Department of
7 Veterans Affairs and rural states will face an increasing demand for long-term care services:

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Ninth
9 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature
10 encourages the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to amend the requirements for
11 a long-term care service provider to admit veterans to better allow veterans to receive
12 required and necessary care.