

By Senator Steube

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to dangerous goods and hazardous  
3           materials certification; creating s. 501.938, F.S.;  
4           providing requirements for the use of professional  
5           titles and abbreviations by certified dangerous goods  
6           professionals, hazardous materials managers, and  
7           hazardous materials practitioners; providing  
8           definitions; providing that a violation of such  
9           requirements is a deceptive and unfair trade practice  
10          and a violation of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair  
11          Trade Practices Act; providing an effective date.

12  
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15           Section 1. Section 501.938, Florida Statutes, is created to  
16           read:

17           501.938 Certified dangerous goods professionals, hazardous  
18           materials managers, and hazardous materials practitioners; use  
19           of professional titles; failure to comply.-

20           (1) Any person representing himself or herself as a  
21           "certified dangerous goods professional," "certified hazardous  
22           materials manager," or "certified hazardous materials  
23           practitioner," or using the abbreviations "CDGP," "CHMM," or  
24           "CHMP," respectively, must accurately disclose his or her  
25           credentials.

26           (2) A person may not represent himself or herself as a  
27           "certified dangerous goods professional," "certified hazardous  
28           materials manager," or "certified hazardous materials  
29           practitioner" unless he or she holds a current valid certificate

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30 from the Institute of Hazardous Materials Management or another  
31 institution that issues such certificates. A person may not  
32 mislead or deceive anyone by the unauthorized use of any  
33 certification mark that has been awarded by the United States  
34 Patent and Trademark Office.

35 (3) (a) A "certified dangerous goods professional" is a  
36 person who has been awarded a Certified Dangerous Goods  
37 Professional (CDGP) certificate after successfully demonstrating  
38 expertise in transporting and ensuring the security of dangerous  
39 goods.

40 (b) A "certified hazardous materials manager" is a person  
41 who has been awarded a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager  
42 (CHMM) certificate after successfully demonstrating expertise in  
43 identifying and assessing the risks of hazardous materials,  
44 mitigating or eliminating such risks, and managing the impact  
45 that such risks have on the environment and public health.

46 (c) A "certified hazardous materials practitioner" is a  
47 person who has been awarded a Certified Hazardous Materials  
48 Practitioner (CHMP) certificate after successfully demonstrating  
49 expertise in handling hazardous materials in specialties such as  
50 environmental protection and site cleanup, emergency response,  
51 transportation, and security.

52 (4) Failure to comply with this section is a deceptive and  
53 unfair trade practice and a violation of the Florida Deceptive  
54 and Unfair Trade Practices Act.

55 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.