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576-03286-22

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations  
(Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and  
General Government)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to golf course best management  
practices certification; creating s. 403.9339, F.S.;  
requiring the turfgrass science program at the  
University of Florida Institute of Food and  
Agricultural Sciences, in coordination and cooperation  
with the Department of Environmental Protection, to  
administer a certification for golf course best  
management practices and provide and approve  
certification training and testing programs; providing  
certification and recertification requirements;  
providing that such certification exempts persons from  
certain local training and local ordinance  
regulations; providing construction; authorizing the  
turfgrass science program to share certification  
information with local and state governmental  
entities; encouraging the turfgrass science program to  
create an online certification registry; providing an  
effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 403.9339, Florida Statutes, is created  
to read:

403.9339 Golf course best management practices  
certification.-



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27       (1) To provide a means of documenting and ensuring  
28 compliance with best management practices for fertilizer  
29 application to golf courses, the turfgrass science program at  
30 the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural  
31 Sciences, in coordination with the department, shall administer  
32 a certification for golf course best management practices.

33       (2) The turfgrass science program, in cooperation with the  
34 department, shall:

35       (a) Provide training and testing programs in golf course  
36 best management practices and may issue certificates  
37 demonstrating satisfactory completion of the training.

38       (b) Approve training and testing programs in golf course  
39 best management practices that are equivalent to or more  
40 comprehensive than the programs provided by the turfgrass  
41 science program under paragraph (a). Such programs must be  
42 reviewed and reapproved by the turfgrass science program if  
43 significant changes are made.

44       (3) To obtain a golf course best management practices  
45 certification, an applicant must submit to the turfgrass science  
46 program a copy of the training certificate issued under  
47 subsection (2).

48       (4) A golf course best management practices certification  
49 issued under this section expires 4 years after the date of  
50 issuance. Upon expiration of the certification, or after a grace  
51 period of not more than 30 days after the expiration date, a  
52 recertification may be issued.

53       (5) To obtain a golf course best management practices  
54 recertification, an applicant must submit to the turfgrass  
55 science program proof of having completed 8 classroom hours of



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56 continuing education, of which at least 2 hours must address  
57 fertilizer best management practices.

58 (6) A person certified under this section is exempt from:

59 (a) Additional local training.

60 (b) Local ordinances relating to water and fertilizer use  
61 blackout periods or restrictions, unless a state of emergency is  
62 declared. The certified person must continue to coordinate with  
63 the local government to ensure that he or she adheres to the  
64 comprehensive best management practices for that specific  
65 community.

66 (7) This section does not exempt a person certified under  
67 this section from complying with the rules and requirements for  
68 basin management action plans set forth in s. 403.067(7) if the  
69 golf course is located in an area within a basin management  
70 action plan.

71 (8) (a) The turfgrass science program may provide the  
72 certification status of persons certified under this section to  
73 local and state governmental entities.

74 (b) The turfgrass science program is encouraged to create a  
75 registry of persons certified under this section on its website.

76 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.