

**By** the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources; and  
Senator Gruters

592-02258-22

20221556c1

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to golf course best management  
3           practices certification; creating s. 403.9339, F.S.;  
4           directing the Department of Environmental Protection  
5           to work and cooperate with the turfgrass science  
6           program at the University of Florida Institute of Food  
7           and Agricultural Sciences to administer a  
8           certification for golf course best management  
9           practices and provide and approve certification  
10          training and testing programs; providing certification  
11          and recertification requirements; providing that such  
12          certification exempts persons from certain local  
13          testing and local ordinance regulations; providing an  
14          exception; authorizing the department to share  
15          certification information with local and state  
16          governmental entities; encouraging the department to  
17          create an online certification registry; directing the  
18          department to adopt rules; providing an effective  
19          date.

20  
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22  
23           Section 1. Section 403.9339, Florida Statutes, is created  
24 to read:

25           403.9339 Golf course best management practices  
26 certification.—

27           (1) To provide a means of documenting and ensuring  
28 compliance with best management practices for fertilizer  
29 application to golf courses, the department shall work with the

592-02258-22

20221556c1

30 turfgrass science program at the University of Florida Institute  
31 of Food and Agricultural Sciences to administer a certification  
32 for golf course best management practices.

33 (2) The department, in cooperation with the turfgrass  
34 science program at the University of Florida Institute of Food  
35 and Agricultural Sciences, shall:

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

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

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

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

53 (b) Before applying for recertification, an applicant must  
54 complete 8 classroom hours of acceptable continuing education,  
55 of which at least 2 hours must address fertilizer best  
56 management practices.

57 (5) To obtain a golf course best management practices  
58 recertification, an applicant must submit to the department

592-02258-22

20221556c1

59 proof of having completed the 8 classroom hours of continuing  
60 education pursuant to subsection (4).

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

62 (a) Additional local testing.

63 (b) Local ordinances relating to water and fertilizer use  
64 blackout periods or restrictions, unless a state of emergency is  
65 declared.

66 (7) (a) The department may provide the certification status  
67 of persons certified under this section to local and state  
68 governmental entities.

69 (b) The department is encouraged to create a registry of  
70 persons certified under this section on its website.

71 (8) The department shall adopt rules to administer this  
72 section.

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