

By the Committees on Appropriations; and Environment and Natural Resources; and Senator Gruters

576-03559-22

20221556c2

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 requiring the turfgrass science program at the
5 University of Florida Institute of Food and
6 Agricultural Sciences, in coordination and cooperation
7 with the Department of Environmental Protection, to
8 administer a certification for golf course best
9 management practices and provide and approve
10 certification training and testing programs; providing
11 certification and recertification requirements;
12 providing that such certification exempts persons from
13 certain local training and local ordinance
14 regulations; providing construction; authorizing the
15 turfgrass science program to share certification
16 information with local and state governmental
17 entities; encouraging the turfgrass science program to
18 create an online certification registry; providing an
19 effective date.

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

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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 turfgrass science program at

576-03559-22

20221556c2

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
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:

576-03559-22

20221556c2

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.