

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; providing construction; authorizing the  
 15          department to share certification information with  
 16          local and state governmental entities; encouraging the  
 17          department to create an online certification registry;  
 18          directing the department to adopt rules; 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 department shall work with the  
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  
46 copy 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  
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) This section does not exempt a person certified under  
67 this section from complying with the rules and requirements of  
68 basin management action plans set forth in s. 403.067(7) if the  
69 golf course is located within a basin management action plan.

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

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

75 (9) The department shall adopt rules to administer this

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2022

76 | section.

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