

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 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 requirements for such persons;
 15 providing an exception; providing construction;
 16 authorizing the turfgrass science program to share
 17 certification information with local and state
 18 governmental entities; encouraging the turfgrass
 19 science program to create an online certification
 20 registry; providing an effective date.

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

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

26 403.9339 Golf course best management practices
 27 certification.—

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

34 (2) The turfgrass science program, in cooperation with the
 35 department, 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 turfgrass
 42 science program under paragraph (a). Such programs must be
 43 reviewed and reapproved by the turfgrass science program if
 44 significant changes are made.

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

49 (4) A golf course best management practices certification
 50 issued under this section expires 4 years after the date of

51 issuance. Upon expiration of the certification, or after a grace
52 period of not more than 30 days after the expiration date, a
53 recertification may be issued.

54 (5) To obtain a golf course best management practices
55 recertification, an applicant must submit to the turfgrass
56 science program proof of having completed 8 classroom hours of
57 continuing education, of which at least 2 hours must address
58 fertilizer best management practices.

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

60 (a) Additional local training.

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

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

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

75 (b) The turfgrass science program is encouraged to create

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76 | a registry of persons certified under this section on its
77 | website.

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