1
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:

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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

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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

76 a registry of persons certified under this section on its

77 website.

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

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