

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	_____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	_____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	_____	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	_____	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	_____	(Y/N)
OTHER		

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Water Quality, Supply &
2 Treatment Subcommittee

3 Representative Bell offered the following:

4

5 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

6 Remove lines 27-96 and insert:

7 first responders. As used in this section, drinking water and
8 wastewater personnel are defined as any employee of a public
9 water system as defined in s. 403.852(2), a state, municipal, or
10 county sewerage system as defined in s. 403.031(9), or a
11 governmental authority as defined in s. 367.021(7), or a utility
12 as defined in s. 367.021(12).

13 (c) The threat to the public health and the environment
14 from the operation of water and wastewater treatment plants and
15 water distribution systems mandates that qualified personnel
16 operate these facilities.

Amendment No. 1

17 (2) It is the legislative intent of the Legislature that
18 any person who performs the duties of an operator and who falls
19 below minimum competency or who otherwise presents a danger to
20 the public be prohibited from operating a plant or system in
21 this state.

22 Section 2. Section 403.867, Florida Statutes, is amended
23 to read:

24 403.867 License required.—A person may not perform the
25 duties of an operator of a water treatment plant, water
26 distribution system, or a domestic wastewater treatment plant
27 unless he or she holds an active and valid operator ~~a current~~
28 ~~operator's~~ license issued by the department under s. 403.872 or
29 s. 403.8721.

30 Section 3. Section 403.8721, Florida Statutes, is created
31 to read:

32 403.8721 Requirements for licensure by reciprocity.—

33 (1) The department shall issue a license by reciprocity to
34 any applicant who at a minimum:

35 (a) Is a water treatment plant operator, water
36 distribution system operator, or domestic wastewater treatment
37 plant operator and holds an active and valid license from
38 another state, the federal government, a territory or tribal
39 government that has been designated as the primary agency by the
40 United States Environmental Protection Agency, or any unit
41 thereof for which the licensure requirements, including

Amendment No. 1

42 education and operational experience, are comparable to or
43 exceed the licensure requirements of s. 403.872.

44 (b) Has passed a licensure examination comparable to the
45 licensure examination of the department, subject to approval by
46 the department.

47 (c) Is not the subject of a disciplinary or enforcement
48 action outside this state at the time of application for
49 reciprocal licensure.

50 (d) Submits a completed application for reciprocal
51 licensure and any required supporting documentation.

52 (e) Remits the application fee.

53 (2)(a) The department shall issue a license by reciprocity
54 to any applicant who:

55 1. Has performed duties comparable to a water treatment
56 plant operator, water distribution system operator, or domestic
57 wastewater treatment plant operator while serving in the United
58 States Armed Forces for which the requirements for performing
59 the duties, including education and operational experience, are
60 comparable to or exceed the licensure requirements of s.
61 403.872.

62 2. Has passed a skill assessment or competency examination
63 comparable to the licensure examination of the department,
64 subject to approval by the department.

65 3. Is not the subject of a disciplinary or enforcement
66 action at the time of application for reciprocal licensure.

Amendment No. 1

- 67 4. Submits a completed application for reciprocal
68 licensure and any required supporting documentation.
- 69 5. Remits the application fee.
- 70 (b) If an applicant does not meet the requirements for
71 licensure under this subsection, the department shall award
72 education and operational experience credits for licensure under
73 s. 403.872.
- 74 (3) During a declared state of emergency, the department:
- 75 (a) May issue a temporary water treatment plant operator
76 license, water distribution system operator license, or domestic
77 wastewater treatment plant operator license by reciprocity to
78 any applicant who meets the requirements of subsection (1) or
79 subsection (2).
- 80 (b) Shall waive the application fee for a temporary
81 operator license under this subsection.
- 82 (4) The department shall adopt rules to implement this
83 section.

84
85
86 -----
87 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

88 Remove lines 4-15 and insert:

89 legislative findings and intent; providing definition; amending
90 s. 403.867, F.S.; conforming a provision; creating s. 403.8721,
91 F.S.; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to

Amendment No. 1

92 | issue water treatment plant operator licenses, water
93 | distribution system operator licenses, and domestic wastewater
94 | treatment plant operator licenses by reciprocity to certain
95 | applicants; providing licensure requirements; authorizing the
96 | department to issue temporary operator licenses during a
97 | declared state of emergency; requiring the department to waive
98 | the application fee for temporary operator licenses; requiring
99 | the department to adopt rules relating to licensure by
100 | reciprocity; providing an effective date.