

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to golf course best management  
3       practices certification; transferring, renumbering,  
4       and amending s. 403.9339, F.S.; providing a short  
5       title; providing legislative findings and intent  
6       regarding golf course best management practices  
7       certification; defining the term "department";  
8       conforming cross-references; providing for a type two  
9       transfer of the Golf Course Best Management Practices  
10      Certification program in the Department of  
11      Environmental Protection to the Department of  
12      Agriculture and Consumer Services; providing an  
13      effective date.

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

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17       **Section 1.   Section 403.9339, Florida Statutes, is**  
18   **transferred, renumbered as section 604.75, Florida Statutes, and**  
19   **amended to read:**

20       604.75 ~~403.9339~~   Golf course best management practices  
21   certification.—

22       (1)   SHORT TITLE.—This section shall be known and may be  
23   cited as the "Golf Course Best Management Practices  
24   Certification Act."

25       (2)   LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—The Legislature finds

26 that, due to the foundational agricultural nature of golf  
27 courses and since the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
28 Services oversees best management practices programs for sod  
29 growing operations and for the green industry, it is appropriate  
30 for the department to oversee golf course best management  
31 practices certification.

32 (3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term  
33 "department" means the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
34 Services.

35 (4)~~(1)~~ To provide a means of documenting and ensuring  
36 compliance with best management practices for fertilizer  
37 application to golf courses, the turfgrass science program at  
38 the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural  
39 Sciences, in coordination with the department, shall administer  
40 a certification for golf course best management practices.

41 (5)~~(2)~~ The turfgrass science program, in cooperation with  
42 the department, shall:

43 (a) Provide training and testing programs in golf course  
44 best management practices and may issue certificates  
45 demonstrating satisfactory completion of the training.

46 (b) Approve training and testing programs in golf course  
47 best management practices that are equivalent to or more  
48 comprehensive than the programs provided by the turfgrass  
49 science program under this subsection ~~paragraph (a)~~. Such  
50 programs must be reviewed and reapproved by the turfgrass

51 science program if significant changes are made.

52 (6)~~(3)~~ To obtain a golf course best management practices  
53 certification, an applicant must submit to the turfgrass science  
54 program a copy of the training certificate issued under  
55 subsection (5) ~~subsection (2)~~.

56 (7)~~(4)~~ A golf course best management practices  
57 certification issued under this section expires 4 years after  
58 the date of issuance. Upon expiration of the certification, or  
59 after a grace period of not more than 30 days after the  
60 expiration date, a recertification may be issued.

61 (8)~~(5)~~ To obtain a golf course best management practices  
62 recertification, an applicant must submit to the turfgrass  
63 science program proof of having completed 8 classroom hours of  
64 continuing education, of which at least 2 hours must address  
65 fertilizer best management practices.

66 (9)~~(6)~~ A person certified under this section is exempt  
67 from:

68 (a) Additional local training.

69 (b) Local ordinances relating to water and fertilizer use  
70 blackout periods or restrictions, unless a state of emergency is  
71 declared. The certified person must continue to coordinate with  
72 the local government to ensure that he or she adheres to the  
73 comprehensive best management practices for that specific  
74 community.

75 (10)~~(7)~~ This section does not exempt a person certified

76 under this section from complying with the rules and  
77 requirements for basin management action plans set forth in s.  
78 403.067(7) if the golf course is located in an area within a  
79 basin management action plan.

80 (11)(a)-(8)(a) The turfgrass science program may provide  
81 the certification status of persons certified under this section  
82 to local and state governmental entities.

83 (b) The turfgrass science program is encouraged to create  
84 a registry of persons certified under this section on its  
85 website.

86 **Section 2.** Type two transfer from the Department of  
87 Environmental Protection.—

88 (1) All powers, duties, functions, records, offices,  
89 personnel, associated administrative support positions,  
90 property, pending issues, existing contracts, administrative  
91 authority, administrative rules, and unexpended balances of  
92 appropriations, allocations, and other funds relating to the  
93 Golf Course Best Management Practices Certification program  
94 within the Department of Environmental Protection are  
95 transferred by a type two transfer, as defined in s. 20.06(2),  
96 Florida Statutes, to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
97 Services.

98 (2) Any binding contract or interagency agreement existing  
99 before July 1, 2026, between the Department of Environmental  
100 Protection, or an entity or agent of the department, and any

other agency, entity, or person relating to the Golf Course Best Management Practices Certification program shall continue as a binding contract or agreement for the remainder of the term of such contract or agreement on the successor entity responsible for the program, activity, or functions relative to the contract or agreement.

**Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.