LRB-3927/2 MDK:cmh:mrc

1999 SENATE BILL 347

January 27, 2000 – Introduced by Senators Grobschmidt and Erpenbach, cosponsored by Representatives Hebl, Gunderson, Richards, Duff, Bock, Vrakas and Berceau. Referred to Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations.

- 1 AN ACT *to create* 440.03 (16), 440.08 (2) (a) 72. and 470.025 (12) of the statutes;
- 2 **relating to:** registration of wetland scientists.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, with certain exceptions, a person may not engage in the practice of professional geology, hydrology or soil science, unless he or she is licensed by the examining board of professional geologists, hydrologists and soil scientists.

This bill creates an additional exception from the licensing requirement for a person who is registered as wetland scientist by the department of regulation and licensing (DORL) and who is engaged in certain activities related to wetlands, including monitoring, delineation, permitting and designing wetland restoration projects or projects to mitigate adverse impacts to wetlands. The bill requires DORL to register as a wetland scientist a person who pays a registration fee and who is certified, registered or accredited as a wetland scientist by a state or national private or professional organization that certifies, registers or accredits wetland scientists and that is recognized by DORL.

A person who is registered as a wetland scientist under the bill must notify DORL if the national organization revokes the person's certification, registration or accreditation, in which case DORL must revoke the person's registration as a wetland scientist.

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For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 440.03 (16) of the statutes is created to read:

440.03 (16) (a) The department shall grant a certificate of registration as a wetland scientist to a person if all of the following apply:

- 1. The person is certified, registered or accredited as a wetland scientist by a state or national private or professional organization that certifies, registers or accredits wetland scientists.
- 2. The organization that certified, registered or accredited the person under subd. 1. is recognized by the department.
- 3. The person pays the fee specified in s. 440.05 (1) and files with the department evidence satisfactory to the department that he or she is certified, registered or accredited as required under subd. 1.
- (b) A person who is registered under par. (a) shall notify the department in writing within 30 days if the organization specified in par. (a) 1. revokes the person's certification, registration or accreditation. The department shall revoke a certificate of registration granted under par. (a) if such an organization revokes such a certification, registration or accreditation.
- (c) The renewal dates for certificates granted under par. (a) are specified in s. 440.08 (2) (a). Renewal applications shall be submitted to the department on a form provided by the department and shall include the renewal fee specified in s. 440.08 (2) (a) and evidence satisfactory to the department that the person's certification, registration or accreditation specified in par. (a) 1. has not been revoked.

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1	Section 2. 440.08 (2) (a) 72. of the statutes is created to read:
2	440.08 (2) (a) 72. Wetland scientist: August 1 of each even-numbered year; \$47
3	Section 3. 470.025 (12) of the statutes is created to read:
4	470.025 (12) A person registered as a wetland scientist under s. 440.03 (16) (a
5	who is engaged in activities related to wetland monitoring, wetland delineation
6	wetland or water resource permitting, wetland assessments or design of projects to
7	restore wetlands or mitigate adverse impacts to wetlands, in accordance with state
8	or federal statutes, rules, regulations or guidelines.
9	Section 4. Nonstatutory provisions.
10	(1) Notwithstanding sections $440.03(16)$ and $440.08(2)(a)72.$ of the statutes
11	as created by this act, an initial certificate of registration for a wetland scientist that
12	is issued on or before August 1, 2000, shall be valid until and renewable on August
13	1, 2002.
14	Section 5. Effective date.
15	(1) This act takes effect on the first day of the 6th month beginning after
16	publication.
17	(END)