

Chapter 8

2025 Regular Session

Subject Commercial diving safety

Bill H.F. 1355

Analyst Anna Scholin

Date May 2, 2025

Overview

This act sets safety and permit requirements for commercial diving operations, particularly those managing aquatic plants.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Issuance; validity.
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Requires that the commissioner of natural resources, before issuing commercial mechanical control permits for work with aquatic plants:

- 1) ask if scuba diving equipment will be used and, if it will, provide a sheet of information about safety requirements for scuba diving; and
- 2) require proof of completion of a third-party on-site hazard survey within the last year by a qualified safety professional who observed the applicant's work using scuba equipment, including a written report of findings and safety recommendations.

Effective date: this section will become effective October 1, 2025.

2	Permit standards.
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Forbids the commissioner of natural resources from issuing commercial mechanical control permits to work with aquatic plants to anyone who:

- 1) received one or more citations for willful violations of occupational safety and health standards involving scuba diving in the previous two years; or
- 2) has contested one or more citations for willful violations of occupational safety and health standards involving scuba diving, while the case is being contested.

Broadens the ban to bar commercial mechanical control permits for a "successor person" who shares several of the characteristics of the person unable to receive a permit due to recent willful or contested safety violations.

Section	Description
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	Allows the commissioner of natural resources to revoke a commercial mechanical control permit if a violation of that statute is discovered. Requires the commissioner of labor and industry to provide the commissioner of natural resources with timely information as necessary to implement the law.
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Effective date: this section will become effective October 1, 2025.

3	[182.679] Commercial diving operations.
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	Sets requirements for commercial diving operations. Prohibits employers from allowing a worker to scuba dive unless the worker has a valid open-water scuba diver certificate or more advanced certificate from the nationally recognized and accredited program. Stipulates that employers must require the use of eight specific types of safety equipment be used during scuba diving, including a buoyance-control device, quick-release weight system, an audible emergency surface-signaling device, and an illuminated dive beacon. Lists additional equipment that an employer must provide if the diver requests it. Requires a standby diver be available whenever a diver is in the water and that employees have first aid and CPR training. Allows for enforcement of these requirements and imposes penalties for violations.
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Requires the commissioner of labor and industry to develop an information sheet for commercial diving operations that outlines legal requirements and to both post this sheet on the department's website and provide it to the commissioner of natural resources so it may be provided to businesses applying for permits to work with aquatic plants.

Specifies that this section may be cited as the Brady Aune and Joseph Anderson Safety Act.

Effective date: This section became effective May 2, 2025.



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