

**Subject** Commercial diving safety

**Authors** Baker and others

**Analyst** Anna Scholin

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## Overview

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

## Summary

| Section | Description |
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|---|--|
| 1 | <p><b>Issuance; validity.</b></p> <p>Requires that the commissioner of natural resources, before issuing permits for work with aquatic plants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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</li><li>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.</li></ol> |
| 2 | <p><b>Permit standards.</b></p> <p>Forbids the commissioner of natural resources from issuing permits to work with aquatic plants to anyone who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) received one or more willful violations of occupational safety and health standards involving scuba diving in the previous two years; or</li><li>2) has contested one or more willful violations of occupational safety and health standards involving scuba diving, while the case is being contested.</li></ol>  |

Broadens the ban to bar 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   |
|---------|---|
| 3       | <p data-bbox="316 262 852 300"><b>[182.679] Commercial diving operations.</b></p> <p data-bbox="316 310 1430 690">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 from the nationally recognized and accredited program. Stipulates that buoyancy control devices must be required to be used during scuba diving. Allows for enforcement of these requirements and imposes penalties for violations. 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.</p> |



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