



S.F. No. 1346 – Permitting and occupational safety requirements for commercial diving operations (A-2 amendment)

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S.F. 1346 would add safety requirements for commercial diving operations that use self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (scuba) equipment to the natural resources permitting process and workplace occupational safety laws.

Section 1. **[103G.615, subd. 1] Issuance; validity.** Specifies the conditions under which the commissioner of natural resources (DNR) may issue a commercial mechanical control permit for aquatic plants. Requires an applicant to: (1) inform the commissioner whether scuba diving equipment will be used during any activity authorized by the permit; and (2) provide documentation, including a written report, of a third-party on-site hazard survey of the applicant's work using scuba diving equipment completed by a qualified safety professional.

Section 1 is effective October 1, 2025, and applies to permits issued on or after that date.

Section 2. **[103G.615, subdivision 3] Permit standards.** Prescribes the standards for the DNR commissioner to deny permits, including not issuing or renewing a permit to person who has, or has contested, one or more willful violations of an occupational safety and health (OSHA) standard involving scuba diving in the previous two years or during the pendency of a contested case. Prohibits issuance of a permit to a successor person. Provides a definition of "successor person."

Section 2 is effective October 1, 2025, and applies to violations committed on or after that date.

Section 3. **[182.679] Commercial diving operations.** Subdivision 1. **Application.** Applies this section to individuals who conduct scuba diving at a place of employment when making improvements to land, including the removal of aquatic plants.

Subdivision 2. **Certification required for commercial diving operations.** Prohibits an employer from allowing an individual subject to this section to conduct scuba diving unless the individual has

a valid open water scuba diver certificate, or a more advanced certificate, from a nationally recognized and accredited certification program or agency.

Subdivision 3. Equipment requirements. Requires use of a buoyancy control device and an illuminated dive beacon by employers when an individual subject to this section is scuba diving.

Subdivision 4. Penalties. Authorizes an employer to be cited for violations of the scuba certification and equipment requirements.

Subdivision 5. Information for employers. Requires the commissioner to develop an information sheet explaining the requirements for employers who have employees that use scuba diving equipment in the workplace.

Section 3 is effective May 1, 2025.



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