

HB 999

2026

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to refrigerant safety and agricultural continuity; creating s. 604.74, F.S.; providing a short title; providing legislative findings and intent; providing definitions; authorizing agricultural food processing and cold chain industries to continue to purchase, install, and service equipment utilizing R-410A refrigerant through a specified date; requiring the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to maintain certain records; requiring the department to provide an annual report to the Legislature by a specified date; providing requirements for the annual report; providing immunity from liability for certain persons and business entities; authorizing the department to coordinate with certain entities for a specified purpose; authorizing the department to adopt rules; providing construction; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 604.74, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

604.74 Refrigerant safety and agricultural continuity.—

26 and Agricultural Continuity Act."

27       (2) The Legislature finds that this state's agricultural  
28 food processing and cold chain industries rely upon refrigerant  
29 systems that ensure product safety, temperature stability, and  
30 export reliability. The United States Environmental Protection  
31 Agency's technology transition rule requires replacement of R-  
32 410A refrigerants with A2L refrigerants, including R-454B  
33 refrigerants, beginning in calendar years 2025 and 2026. R-454B  
34 refrigerant is classified as a mildly flammable refrigerant and  
35 has not been fully tested or certified for all commercial  
36 agricultural refrigerant applications, creating potential risk  
37 of fire, equipment failure, and insurance exclusion. A rapid  
38 transition to A2L refrigerants may impose substantial costs on  
39 this state's agricultural food processing and cold chain  
40 industries with statewide economic impacts estimated in the  
41 billions of dollars. It is in the public interest to protect  
42 safety, food supply integrity, and small business continuity  
43 during the refrigerant transition period. It is the intent of  
44 the Legislature to ensure the safety, economic stability, and  
45 operational continuity of this state's agricultural food  
46 processing and cold chain industries by authorizing the  
47 continued use of R-410A refrigerant until alternative  
48 refrigerants such as R-454B refrigerants are proven safe, fully  
49 certified, and supported by adequate equipment availability,  
50 workforce training, and insurance coverage.

51       (3) As used in this section, the term:

52       (a) "Agricultural refrigerant application" means any  
53 cooling or cold storage system used for agricultural production  
54 or food processing, packaging, or transport.

55       (b) "A2L refrigerant" means any refrigerant classified as  
56 lower toxicity and mildly flammable under American Society of  
57 Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Standard  
58 34.

59       (c) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and  
60 Consumer Services.

61       (4) Notwithstanding any federal phase-down schedule or  
62 other conflicting law, this state's agricultural food processing  
63 and cold chain industries may continue to purchase, install, and  
64 service equipment utilizing R-410A refrigerant through January  
65 1, 2035, or until otherwise determined by the Legislature. The  
66 department shall maintain records of R-410A equipment  
67 installations and coordinate with relevant federal agencies to  
68 ensure compliance with applicable reporting requirements.

69       (5) By January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the  
70 department, in consultation with the Department of Environmental  
71 Protection and the State Fire Marshal, shall provide a report to  
72 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
73 Representatives on:

74       (a) Safety performance data for A2L refrigerants,  
75 including R-454B refrigerants.

76        (b) Availability of compliant equipment and certified  
77        technicians for statewide transition to A2L refrigerants.

78        (c) Insurance and liability standards applicable to A2L  
79        refrigerant systems.

80        (d) Recommendations regarding readiness for statewide  
81        transition to A2L refrigerants.

82        (6) A person or business entity operating in compliance  
83        with this section and using R-410A refrigerant may not be held  
84        liable solely for continued use of such refrigerant under any  
85        federal phase-down schedule until a state-certified safe  
86        alternative is fully available.

87        (7) The department may coordinate with Florida College  
88        System institutions, career centers, and industry trade  
89        associations to expand training and certification programs for  
90        the safe handling, installation, and servicing of A2L  
91        refrigerants.

92        (8) The department may adopt rules to implement this  
93        section.

94        (9) This section establishes this state's enforcement  
95        discretion and safety timeline consistent with its interest in  
96        agriculture and public safety and may not be construed to  
97        preempt or contravene the authority of the United States  
98        Environmental Protection Agency.

99        **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.