

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to refrigerant safety and agricultural
3 continuity; creating s. 604.74, F.S.; providing a
4 short title; providing legislative findings; defining
5 the terms "A2L refrigerant" and "department";
6 requiring the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
7 Services to provide an annual report to the
8 Legislature by a specified date; providing
9 requirements for the annual report; authorizing the
10 department to coordinate with certain entities for a
11 specified purpose; providing an effective date.

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

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

17 604.74 Refrigerant safety and agricultural continuity.—

18 (1) This section may be cited as the "Refrigerant Safety
19 and Agricultural Continuity Act."

20 (2) The Legislature finds that this state's agricultural
21 food processing and cold chain industries rely upon refrigerant
22 systems that ensure product safety, temperature stability, and
23 export reliability. The United States Environmental Protection
24 Agency's Technology Transition Rule requires replacement of R-
25 410A refrigerants with A2L refrigerants, including R-454B

26 refrigerants, beginning in calendar years 2025 and 2026. R-454B
27 refrigerant is classified as a mildly flammable refrigerant and
28 has not been fully tested or certified for all commercial
29 agricultural refrigerant applications, creating potential risk
30 of fire, equipment failure, and insurance exclusion. A rapid
31 transition to A2L refrigerants may impose substantial costs on
32 this state's agricultural food processing and cold chain
33 industries with statewide economic impacts estimated in the
34 billions of dollars.

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

36 (a) "A2L refrigerant" means any refrigerant classified as
37 lower toxicity and mildly flammable under American Society of
38 Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Standard
39 34.

40 (b) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture and
41 Consumer Services.

42 (4) By January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the
43 department, in consultation with the Department of Environmental
44 Protection and the State Fire Marshal, shall provide a report to
45 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
46 Representatives on:

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

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

51 (c) Insurance and liability standards applicable to A2L
52 refrigerant systems.

53 (d) Recommendations regarding readiness for statewide
54 transition to A2L refrigerants.

55 (e) The status of and any updates to the United States
56 Environmental Protection Agency's Technology Transition Rule as
57 set forth in 40 C.F.R. part 84.

58 (5) The department may coordinate with Florida College
59 System institutions, career centers, and industry trade
60 associations to expand training and certification programs for
61 the safe handling, installation, and servicing of A2L
62 refrigerants.

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