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; defining the terms "A2L refrigerant" and "department"; requiring the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to provide an annual report to the Legislature by a specified date; providing requirements for the annual report; authorizing the department to coordinate with certain entities for a specified purpose; 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.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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