

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Juneau, Alaska 99801 (Jan. -April)
State Capitol, Room 412
907.465.2095

House Bill 51 – Use of Designated Refrigerants

Sponsor Statement

Alaska is one of the states where legislation is needed to prepare for the transition away from hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). HFCs are chemicals that are most commonly found in industrial and residential air conditioning systems in the form of refrigerant.

According to the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, “The most abundant HFC is 3,790 times more damaging to the climate than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period” (CCA) House Bill 51 aims to give the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Industry the framework it needs to begin the transitioning process in the future in a safe and efficient manner, allowing for them to stay as competitive as possible while also lowering the global warming potential by approximately 75% through switching to HFC alternatives.

To move forward with the goal of switching out HFCs, the legislature must ensure that the building codes in Alaska cannot stop the use of a HFC alternative as long as the equipment needed to use it is installed properly and complies with the necessary safety standards. Supporting the switch to HFC alternative refrigerants will nationally contribute to the projected creation of around 33,000 jobs as well as maintaining 138,400 other existing jobs from now to 2027.

This will embolden Alaska’s economy and ensure that we do all we can to support the need for green energy techniques and industries in the future. In combination with other states, the federal transition to HFC alternatives is projected to decrease America’s greenhouse gas emissions by a total of 2.4 billion metric tons of Carbon Dioxide for the next 15 years. The importance of allowing our industrial leaders to have a functional environment in which to do business, as well as working on our levels of greenhouse gas emissions are two very important, related subjects and HB 51s passage will be a fantastic approach to helping both.