A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services; amending s. 193.461, F.S.;
specifying a methodology for the assessment of certain
buildings and structures located on agricultural
lands; amending s. 316.520, F.S.; revising application
of agricultural load securing requirements; amending
s. 570.441, F.S.; extending the scheduled expiration
for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
Services’ use of funds from the Pest Control Trust
Fund for certain duties of the department; amending s.
590.02, F.S.; directing the Florida Forest Service to
develop a training curriculum for wildland
firefighters; providing requirements for such
training; amending s. 633.408, F.S.; providing
wildland firefighter training and certification for
certain firefighters and volunteer firefighters;
providing legislative findings; requiring the
Department of Environmental Protection, in
coordination with the Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services and other entities, to develop a
study to estimate the benefits of renewable natural
gas in this state; requiring a report to the Governor
and the Legislature; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (6) of section
193.461, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
193.461 Agricultural lands; classification and assessment; mandated eradication or quarantine program; natural disasters.—

(6)(c)1. For purposes of the income methodology approach to assessment of property used for agricultural purposes, irrigation systems, including pumps and motors, physically attached to the land shall be considered a part of the average yields per acre and shall have no separately assessable contributory value.

2. Litter containment structures located on producing poultry farms and animal waste nutrient containment structures located on producing dairy farms shall be assessed by the methodology described in subparagraph 1.

3. Structures or improvements used in horticultural production for frost or freeze protection, which are consistent with the interim measures or best management practices adopted by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to s. 570.93 or s. 403.067(7)(c), shall be assessed by the methodology described in subparagraph 1.

4. Screened enclosed structures used in horticultural production for protection from pests and diseases or to comply with state or federal eradication or compliance agreements shall be assessed by the methodology described in subparagraph 1.

5. Any building or structure located on land that is classified as agricultural and which is used in and in furtherance of the agricultural purpose of the land, including, but not limited to, buildings or structures used for production, packaging, processing, or storage, shall be assessed by the methodology described in subparagraph 1.

Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 316.520, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

316.520 Loads on vehicles.—

(4) The provision of subsection (2) requiring covering and securing the load with a close-fitting tarpaulin or other appropriate cover does not apply to vehicles carrying agricultural products locally from a harvest site or to or from a farm on roads where the posted speed limit is 65 miles per hour or less and the distance driven on public roads is less than 20 miles.

Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 570.441, Florida Statutes, is amended to read

570.441 Pest Control Trust Fund.—

(4) In addition to the uses authorized under subsection (2), moneys collected or received by the department under chapter 482 may be used to carry out the provisions of s. 570.44. This subsection expires June 30, 2024.

Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 590.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read

590.02 Florida Forest Service; powers, authority, and duties; liability; building structures; Withlacoochee Training Center.—

(1) The Florida Forest Service has the following powers, authority, and duties to:

(a) Enforce the provisions of this chapter;

(b) Prevent, detect, and suppress wildfires wherever they may occur on public or private land in this state and do all things necessary in the exercise of such powers, authority, and duties;

(c) Provide firefighting crews, who shall be under the
control and direction of the Florida Forest Service and its designated agents;

(d) Appoint center managers, forest area supervisors, forestry program administrators, a forest protection bureau chief, a forest protection assistant bureau chief, a field operations bureau chief, deputy chiefs of field operations, district managers, forest operations administrators, senior forest rangers, investigators, forest rangers, firefighter rotorcraft pilots, and other employees who may, at the Florida Forest Service’s discretion, be certified as forestry firefighters pursuant to s. 633.408(8). Other law notwithstanding, center managers, district managers, forest protection assistant bureau chief, and deputy chiefs of field operations have Selected Exempt Service status in the state personnel designation;

(e) Develop a training curriculum for wildland forestry firefighters which must contain a minimum of 40 hours of structural firefighter training, a minimum of 40 hours of emergency medical training, the basic volunteer structural fire training course approved by the Florida State Fire College of the Division of State Fire Marshal and a minimum of 376.250 hours of wildfire training;

(f) Pay the cost of the initial commercial driver license examination fee for those employees whose position requires them to operate equipment requiring a license. This paragraph is intended to be an authorization to the department to pay such costs, not an obligation;

(g) Provide fire management services and emergency response assistance and set and charge reasonable fees for performance of
those services. Moneys collected from such fees shall be
deposited into the Incidental Trust Fund of the Florida Forest
Service;

(h) Require all state, regional, and local government
agencies operating aircraft in the vicinity of an ongoing
wildfire to operate in compliance with the applicable state
Wildfire Aviation Plan;

(i) Authorize broadcast burning, prescribed burning, pile
burning, and land clearing debris burning to carry out the
duties of this chapter and the rules adopted thereunder; and

(j) Make rules to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

Section 5. Subsection (8) of section 633.408, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

633.408 Firefighter and volunteer firefighter training and
certification.—

(8)(a) Pursuant to s. 590.02(1)(e), the division shall
establish a structural fire training program of not less than 40
hours. The division shall issue to a person satisfactorily
complying with this training program and who has successfully
passed an examination as prescribed by the division and who has
met the requirements of s. 590.02(1)(e), a Wildland Firefighter
Forestry Certificate of Compliance.

(b) An individual who holds a current and valid Wildland
Firefighter Forestry Certificate of Compliance is entitled to
the same rights, privileges, and benefits provided for by law as
a firefighter.

Section 6. Renewable natural gas study.—

(1) The Department of Environmental Protection, in
coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
Services, the Florida chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, and the Florida Natural Gas Association, shall develop a study to estimate the potential benefits of renewable natural gas in this state. The study must consider all of the following:

(a) The use of renewable natural gas resources to generate energy and fuel and the benefits for local communities, the economy, and the environment.

(b) The ability of renewable natural gas to create new revenue streams for local governments, agricultural producers, and other producers of waste.

(c) The potential for renewable natural gas to contribute to energy security by providing the gas grid enhanced diversity of supply.

(2) The Department of Environmental Protection shall submit a report of the results of the study to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon completion of such study.

Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.