1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to housing for agricultural workers; 3 amending s. 163.3162, F.S.; defining the terms "housing site" and "legally verified agricultural 4 5 worker"; prohibiting a governmental entity from 6 adopting or enforcing legislation that inhibits the 7 construction of housing for legally verified 8 agricultural workers on agricultural land operated as 9 a bona fide farm; authorizing local governments to adopt land use regulations that are less restrictive 10 11 than certain regulations; requiring that the 12 construction or installation of such housing units on 13 agricultural lands satisfy certain criteria; requiring 14 that local ordinances comply with certain regulations; 15 requiring property owners to maintain certain records 16 for a specified timeframe; requiring the suspension of 17 use of certain housing units and authorizing their 18 removal under certain circumstances; specifying 19 applicability of permit allocation systems in certain areas of critical state concern; authorizing the 20 21 continued use of housing sites constructed before the effective date of the act if certain conditions are 22 23 met; providing requirements for property owners of 24 certain housing sites; providing an effective date. 25

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26 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 27 28 Section 1. Paragraphs (e) and (f) are added to subsection (2) of section 163.3162, Florida Statutes, and subsection (5) is 29 added to that section, to read: 30 163.3162 Agricultural Lands and Practices.-31 32 DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term: (e) "Housing site" means the totality of development 33 34 supporting authorized housing, including buildings, mobile 35 homes, barracks, dormitories used as living quarters, parking 36 areas, common areas such as athletic fields or playgrounds, storage structures, and other related structures. 37 38 "Legally verified agricultural worker" means a person 39 who meets all of the following criteria: 1. Is lawfully present in the United States. 40 2. Has been verified through the process provided in s. 41 42 448.095 and is authorized to work at the time of employment. 43 3. Is seasonally or annually employed in bona fide agricultural production. 44 45 4. Remains lawfully present and authorized to work throughout the duration of that employment. 46 47 48 The term includes a migrant farmworker as defined in s. 49 381.008(4) and a temporary worker with a valid H-2A visa issued

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pursuant to 8 U.S.C. s. 1188.

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(5) HOUSING FOR LEGALLY VERIFIED AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.—
(a) A governmental entity may not adopt or enforce any
legislation to inhibit the construction or installation of
housing for legally verified agricultural workers on land
classified as agricultural land pursuant to s. 193.461 which is
operated as a bona fide farm except as provided in this
subsection. However, a local government may adopt land use
regulations that are less restrictive than as provided in this
subsection.
(b) Construction or installation of housing units for
legally verified agricultural workers on parcels of land
classified as agricultural land under s. 193.461 must satisfy
all of the following criteria:
1. The dwelling units must meet federal, state, and local
building standards, including standards of the Department of
Health adopted pursuant to ss. 381.008-381.00897 and federal
standards for H-2A visa housing. If written notice of intent is
required to be submitted to the Department of Health pursuant to
s. 381.0083, the appropriate governmental entity with
jurisdiction over the agricultural lands may also require
submittal of a copy of the written notice.
2. The housing site must be maintained in a neat, orderly,
and safe manner.
2 All structures containing dualling units must be

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located a minimum of 10 feet apart.

4. The square footage of the housing site's climate-controlled facilities may not exceed 1.5 percent of the property's area or 35,000 square feet, whichever is less.

- 5. A housing site must provide front, side, and rear yard setbacks of at least 50 feet. However, an internal project driveway may be located in the required yard space if the yard is adjacent to a public roadway or to property that is under common ownership with the housing site.
- 6. A housing site may not be located less than 250 feet from a property line adjacent to property zoned for residential use. If the housing site is located less than 500 feet from any property line, screening must be provided between the housing site and any residentially developed adjacent parcels that are under different ownership. The screening may be designed in any of the following ways:
- <u>a.</u> Evergreen plants that, at the time of planting, are at least 6 feet in height and provide an overall screening opacity of 75 percent;
- b. A masonry wall at least 6 feet in height and finished on all sides with brick, stone, or painted or pigmented stucco;
- c. A solid wood or PVC fence at least 6 feet in height with the finished side of the fence facing out;
- d. A row of evergreen shade trees that, at the time of planting, are at least 10 feet in height, a minimum of 2-inch caliper, and spaced no more than 20 feet apart; or

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- 7. All access drives that serve the housing site must be made of packed shell, gravel, or a similar material that will provide a relatively dust-free surface.
- (c) Any local ordinance adopted pursuant to this subsection must comply with all state and federal regulations for migrant farmworker housing, as applicable, including rules adopted by the Department of Health pursuant to ss. 381.008-381.00897 and federal regulations under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act or the H-2A visa program.
- (d) Beginning July 1, 2024, a property owner must maintain records of all approved permits, including successor permits, for migrant labor camps or residential migrant housing as required under s. 381.0081. A property owner must maintain such records for at least 3 years and make the records available for inspection within 14 days after receipt of a request for records by a governmental entity.
- (e) A housing site may not continue to be used and may be required to be removed under the following circumstances:
- 1. If, for any reason, a housing site is not being used for legally verified agricultural workers for longer than 365 days, any structures used as living quarters must be removed

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from the housing site within 180 days after receipt of written notification from the county unless the property owner can demonstrate that use of the site for housing legally verified agricultural workers will occur within 90 days after receipt of the written notification.

- 2. If the property on which the housing site is located ceases to be classified as agricultural land, housing authorized under this section ceases to be eligible for residential uses unless and until it is approved under the zoning and land use regulations of the governmental entity.
- 3. If the permit authorized by the Department of Health for the housing site is revoked, any structures must be removed from the housing site within 180 days after receipt of written notification from the county unless the permit is reinstated by the Department of Health.
- installation of housing for legally verified agricultural workers in the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern or the City of Key West Area of Critical State Concern is subject to the permit allocation systems of the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern or the City of Key West Area of Critical State Concern, respectively.
- (g) A housing site that was constructed and in use before

  July 1, 2024, may continue to be used, and the property owner

  may not be required by a governmental entity to make changes to

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meet the requirements of this subsection, unless the housing
site will be enlarged, remodeled, renovated, or rehabilitated.
The property owner of a housing site that is authorized under
this paragraph must provide regular maintenance and repair,
including compliance with health and safety regulations and
maintenance standards, for such housing site to ensure the
health, safety, and habitability of the housing site.
Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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