
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1010 (Ashby) - Solid waste: Refrigerant Stewardship and Recovery Act

Version: March 25, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 4, 2026

Policy Vote: JUD. 11 - 2, E.Q. 5 - 2

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: SB 1010 would establish an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for household appliances containing refrigerants.

Fiscal Impact: The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) estimates implementation of this bill would be \$3,325,000 in FY 2027-2028 for 16 PYs. Costs would increase to \$3,503,000 for FYs 2029-2030 for 17 PYs. Ongoing costs after FY 2030 would be \$3,843,000 for 19 PYs (Refrigerant Stewardship Recovery Fund).

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) estimated implementation of this bill would be \$391,000 in FY 2027-28 and ongoing.

Background: This bill intends to address the difficulty and potential environmental and health and safety hazards of disposing of household appliances that contain refrigerants by establishing an EPR program. "Refrigerant" means a substance used in a cooling system to absorb and release heat, including, but not limited to, hydrofluorocarbons, hydrofluoroolefins, chlorofluorocarbons, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, hydrocarbons, compressor oils, capacitors, and any other substance designated by CalRecycle via regulation.

Proposed Law: This bill establishes the Refrigerant Stewardship and Recovery Act which would do the following:

Require producers of covered products (certain household appliances containing refrigerants) to join a producer responsibility organization (PRO).

Require CalRecycle to approve a PRO that meets specified requirements by 3/1/2028.

Require CalRecycle to develop regulations in consultation with the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC).

Provide that an action taken by the PRO is not a violation of the Cartwright Act, the Unfair Practices Act or the Unfair Competition Law, as specified.

Related Legislation: AB 80 (Aguiar-Curry) 2025 creates an EPR program for carpets. AB 80 was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

SB 254 (Hancock) Chapter 388/2013 establishes an EPR program for mattresses.

Staff Comments: This bill would establish a new EPR program with associated workload for CalRecycle. The funding for all resources would come from the Refrigerant Stewardship Recovery Fund established by this bill. However, a loan from another fund source would be required to fund an initial period of implementation.

DTSC oversees the Certified Appliance Recycler program where certified recyclers remove certain materials that require special handling for scrap metal from major appliances before they can be properly disposed.

Absent statutory authorization, CalRecycle would be unable to reimburse CARB or DTSC for their implementation and monitoring costs.