

Senate Bill 19

By: Senators Butler of the 55th, Rahman of the 5th, Orrock of the 36th and Hufstetler of the 52nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 regulation and construction of hospitals and other health care facilities, so as to require  
3 hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to utilize surgical smoke evacuation systems during  
4 surgical procedures to protect patients and health care workers from the hazards of surgical  
5 smoke; to provide for definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;  
6 and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 7 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to regulation and  
10 construction of hospitals and other health care facilities, is amended in Article 2, relating to  
11 the Georgia Building Authority, by redesignating Code Section 31-7-23 as Code Section  
12 31-7-24 and by adding a new Code section to the end of Article 1, relating to regulation of  
13 hospitals and related institutions, to read as follows:

14 "31-7-23.

15 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

16 (1) 'Surgical smoke' means the gaseous by-product produced from the interaction of tools  
17 or heat-producing equipment used for dissection and hemostasis during surgical or  
18 invasive procedures, which contains infectious bacteria, viruses, and chemicals that  
19 include proven toxins, mutagens, carcinogens, and allergens.

20 (2) 'Surgical smoke evacuation system' means equipment designed to capture and  
21 neutralize surgical smoke at the point of origin.

22 (b) Each hospital and ambulatory surgical center shall adopt and implement a policy that  
23 prevents human exposure to surgical smoke through the use of a surgical smoke evacuation  
24 system during any surgical or invasive procedure that is likely to generate surgical smoke."

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.