

Senate Bill 573

By: Senators Brass of the 28th, Walker III of the 20th and Robertson of the 29th

**AS PASSED**

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 adopt policies to protect patients and health care  
4 workers from the hazards of surgical smoke; to provide for a definition; to provide for related  
5 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

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

13 "31-7-23.

14 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'surgical smoke' means the gaseous by-product  
15 produced from the interaction of tools or heat-producing equipment used for dissection and  
16 hemostasis during surgical or invasive procedures.

17 (b) Each hospital and ambulatory surgical center shall adopt policies for the reduction of  
18 human exposure to surgical smoke."

19

**SECTION 2.**

20 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.