

Senate Resolution 981

By: Senator Butler of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Surgical Smoke Evacuation Systems; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, surgical smoke is the gaseous by-product produced from the interaction of tools
4 or heat-producing equipment used for dissection and hemostasis during surgical or invasive
5 procedures; and

6 WHEREAS, surgical smoke contains infectious bacteria, viruses, and chemicals that include
7 proven toxins, mutagens, carcinogens, and allergens; and

8 WHEREAS, an estimated 500,000 health care workers are exposed to surgical smoke each
9 year, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; and

10 WHEREAS, exposure to these substances can cause short- and long-term health problems,
11 such as eye, nose, and throat irritation, and possible long-term illnesses, such as emphysema,
12 asthma, and chronic bronchitis; and

13 WHEREAS, surgical smoke evacuation systems used during surgical procedures can protect
14 patients and health care workers from the hazards of surgical smoke; and

15 WHEREAS, Rhode Island and Colorado have laws requiring hospitals to install surgical
16 smoke evacuation equipment in all surgery rooms in hospitals and ambulatory surgical
17 centers; and

18 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the efficacy and cost of surgical smoke
19 evacuation systems in surgery rooms.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

- 21 (1) **Creation of Senate study committee.** There is created the Senate Study Committee
22 on Surgical Smoke Evacuation Systems.
- 23 (2) **Members and officers.** The committee shall be composed of five members of the
24 Senate to be appointed by the President of the Senate. The President shall designate a
25 legislative member of the committee as chairperson of the committee.
- 26 (3) **Powers and duties.** The committee shall undertake a study of the conditions, needs,
27 issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action or
28 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate.
- 29 (4) **Meetings.** The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee. The committee
30 may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
31 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
32 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.
- 33 (5) **Allowances and funding.** The legislative members of the committee shall receive
34 the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia
35 Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by any
36 member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
37 Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from funds
38 appropriated to the Senate.
- 39 (6) **Report.**
- 40 (A) In the event the committee adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
41 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file a report of the
42 same prior to the date of abolishment specified in this resolution, subject to
43 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.
- 44 (B) In the event the committee adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
45 proposed legislation, the chairperson shall file the report, subject to subparagraph (C)
46 of this paragraph.
- 47 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
48 abolishment specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the committee.
49 A report so approved shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee and filed with
50 the Secretary of the Senate.
- 51 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the chairperson may file with the Secretary
52 of the Senate a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the committee in lieu thereof.
- 53 (7) **Abolishment.** The committee shall stand abolished on December 1, 2020.