

House Bill 1715

By: Representatives Holmes of the 53<sup>rd</sup>, Orrock of the 56<sup>th</sup>, Drenner of the 66<sup>th</sup>, Brooks of the 54<sup>th</sup> and Mobley of the 69<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to general provisions regarding dentists and dental hygienists, so as to prohibit the  
3 use of mercury amalgam fillings by a dentist under certain circumstances; to provide for  
4 notice to patients; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 1 of Chapter 11 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
9 general provisions regarding dentists and dental hygienists, is amended by adding a new  
10 Code Section 43-11-23 to read as follows:

11 "43-11-23.

12 (a) A dentist shall not place a mercury or mercury amalgam filling in any person 18 years  
13 of age or younger, in any female 45 years of age or younger, or in any woman of any age  
14 who is pregnant.

15 (b) A dentist may not use mercury or mercury amalgam in a dental procedure unless, prior  
16 to such use, the dentist, in a manner that, in the dentist's professional judgment, will be  
17 understood by the patient, informs the patient of the following:

18 (1) The intended use of mercury or mercury amalgam;

19 (2) The potential advantages and disadvantages of the use of mercury or mercury  
20 amalgam that relate to health, human biological, or environmental issues; and

21 (3) The options for completing the dental procedure using materials other than mercury  
22 or mercury amalgam.

23 (c) Every dentist shall post in the public area of such dentist's office a warning concerning  
24 the dangers of exposure to mercury posed by mercury amalgam fillings. The required  
25 minimum information to be posted shall be determined by rule or regulation adopted by the  
26 board."

1 **SECTION 2.**

2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.