

Senate Bill 573

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

**AS PASSED SENATE**

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.

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

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**SECTION 2.**

20 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.