



Health Systems to Require Surgical Smoke Evacuation Systems in Hospitals and Ambulatory Surgical Centers

COMMITTEE: Health (HEA)

RESOLUTION: HEA-20-11

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

4 **WHEREAS**, surgical smoke contains infectious bacteria, viruses, and chemicals that include
5 proven toxins, mutagens, carcinogens, and allergens; and

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

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

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

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

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

21 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Organization of Black Elected
22 Legislative Women (NOBELW) calls on states to require Smoke Evacuation Systems in
hospitals and
23 ambulatory surgical centers.

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, surgical smoke evacuation systems used during surgical
procedures 25 can protect patients and health care workers from the hazards of surgical smoke;

26 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the
27 President of the United States, Vice President of the United States, members of the
28 United States House of Representatives and the United States senate, and other
29 federal and state government officials as appropriate.

Introduced by the Honorable Gloria Butler

Georgia General Assembly