

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 650
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/25/23

Short Title: Smoke-Free Operating Rooms.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 18, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR SURGICAL SMOKE EVACUATION IN
3 HOSPITALS AND AMBULATORY SURGICAL FACILITIES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Part 2 of Article 5 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes is amended
6 by adding a new section to read:

7 "**§ 131E-78.4. Hospital standards for surgical smoke evacuation.**

8 (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

9 (1) Smoke evacuation/filtering system. – Stand-alone, portable equipment that
10 effectively captures, filters, and eliminates surgical smoke at the site of origin
11 before the smoke makes contact with the eyes or respiratory tracts of
12 occupants in the room. This equipment is not required to be interconnected to
13 the hospital or ambulatory surgical ventilation or medical gas system.

14 (2) Surgical smoke. – The gaseous by-product produced by energy-generating
15 devices, including surgical plume, smoke plume, bio-aerosols, laser-generated
16 airborne contaminants, or lung-damaging dust.

17 (b) Each hospital licensed under this Part shall adopt and implement policies that require
18 the use of a smoke evacuation system during any surgical procedure that is likely to generate
19 surgical smoke.

20 (c) Adverse Action. – The Department of Health and Human Services may take adverse
21 action against a hospital under G.S. 131E-78 for a violation of this section."

22 **SECTION 2.** Part 4 of Article 6 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes is amended
23 by adding a new section to read:

24 "**§ 131E-147.2. Ambulatory surgical facility standards for surgical smoke evacuation.**

25 (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

26 (1) Smoke evacuation system. – Equipment that effectively captures, filters, and
27 eliminates surgical smoke at the site of origin before the smoke makes contact
28 with the eyes or the respiratory tracts of occupants in the room.

29 (2) Surgical smoke. – The gaseous by-product produced by energy-generating
30 devices, including surgical plume, smoke plume, bio-aerosols, laser-generated
31 airborne contaminants, or lung-damaging dust.

32 (b) Each ambulatory surgical facility licensed under this Part shall adopt and implement
33 policies that require the use of a smoke evacuation system during any surgical procedure that is
34 likely to generate surgical smoke.

35 (c) Adverse Action. – The Department of Health and Human Services may take adverse
36 action against an ambulatory surgical facility under G.S. 131E-148 for a violation of this section."



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SECTION 3. This act becomes effective January 1, 2024.