
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 89

AN ACT CONCERNING SURGICAL SMOKE.

SUMMARY

This bill requires each licensed hospital and outpatient surgical facility, by January 1, 2023, to develop a policy for using a surgical smoke evacuation system to prevent exposure to surgical smoke. By October 1, 2023, these facilities must implement the policy and, upon request, provide a copy to the Department of Public Health.

Under the bill, “surgical smoke” is the by-product of using an energy-generating device during surgery, such as surgical or smoke plume, bioaerosols, laser-generated airborne contaminants, or lung-damaging dust. But the term excludes by-products produced during gastroenterological or ophthalmic procedures which are not emitted into the operating room during surgery.

A “surgical smoke evacuation system” is a system, such as a smoke or laser plume evacuator or local exhaust ventilator, that captures and neutralizes surgical smoke (1) at the smoke’s site of origin and (2) before the smoke contacts the eyes or respiratory tract of anyone in an operating room during surgery.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 31 Nay 0 (03/11/2022)