

2017 -- H 5324

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - LICENSING OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Morin, Messier, McLaughlin, and Bennett

Date Introduced: February 01, 2017

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 23-17 of the General Laws entitled "Licensing of Health-Care
2 Facilities" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **23-17-49.1. Workplace and patient safety - evacuation of surgical smoke plume**
4 **required in operating rooms.**

5 (a) As used in this section, the following definitions shall apply:

6 (1) "Smoke evacuation system" means smoke evacuators, laser plume evacuators, plume
7 scavengers, and local exhaust ventilators that capture and neutralize plume at the site of origin
8 and before plume can make ocular contact or contact with the respiratory tract of employees.

9 (2) "Surgical smoke" means the by-product of use of energy-generating devices including
10 surgical plume, smoke plume, bio-aerosols, laser-generated airborne contaminants, and lung-
11 damaging dust.

12 (b) In order to protect patient and health workers from the hazards of surgical smoke,
13 each hospital and freestanding ambulatory surgical facility licensed in the state of Rhode Island
14 pursuant to this chapter shall adopt policies to ensure the elimination of surgical smoke by use of
15 a smoke evacuation system for each procedure that generates surgical smoke.

16 (c) The department of health shall not issue or renew a license of any applicant or license
17 holder as a hospital or freestanding ambulatory surgical center unless the applicant is in
18 compliance with this section.

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1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - LICENSING OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

1 This act would require all hospitals and freestanding ambulatory surgical facilities
2 licensed in this state to adopt policies to use a smoke evacuation system for surgical procedures
3 that generate surgical smoke.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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