

**Committee on Public Health
Bill Summary**

Bill No. H2442

Title: *An Act protecting patients and healthcare workers from exposure to surgical smoke*

Sponsor: Representative James K. Hawkins

Committee: Public Health

Hearing Date: June 11, 2025

Similar Matters: S1482

Prior History: Refile of H2192 of 23-24; referred to Public Health; accompanied a study order

Reporting Deadline: August 10, 2025

Current Law:

- **M.G.L. Chapter 111** pertains to public health.

Summary:

This bill adds a new section to M.G.L. Chapter 111, requiring all hospitals and freestanding surgical facilities adopt policies to eliminate surgical smoke through use of a smoke evacuation system to limit exposure to surgical smoke in healthcare settings.

SECTION 1 amends M.G.L. Chapter 111 by inserting a new section, 245.

Section 245:

Subsection (a) adds definitions for “smoke evacuation system” and “surgical smoke.”

Subsection (b) requires all hospitals and freestanding ambulatory surgical facilities licensed in the Commonwealth to adopt policies to ensure elimination of surgical smoke by use of smoke evacuation system for any procedure that generates surgical smoke from the use of energy-based devices.

Subsection (c) institutes a fine of no less than \$500 for each violation of subsection (b).

SECTION 2 Section 245 of M.G.L Chapter 111 must take effect as of January 1, 2026. Every hospital and freestanding ambulatory surgical center must report to DPH by April 1, 2026, of the policies they have adopted to comply with said section 245 of M.G.L. Chapter 111.