

SENATE BILL 337

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CF HB 228

By: **Senator Conway (By Request – Baltimore City Administration)**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Expedited Partner Therapy Program – Repeal of Termination**
3 **Date**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Expedited Partner Therapy Program in the Baltimore
5 City Health Department as a permanent program; authorizing a certain advanced
6 practice nurse instead of a certified nurse practitioner to dispense or otherwise
7 provide antibiotic therapy under certain circumstances; repealing a certain reporting
8 requirement; repealing the termination date of the Program; making conforming and
9 clarifying changes; and generally relating to the Expedited Partner Therapy
10 Program.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Health – General
13 Section 18–214.1
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Chapter 146 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007, as amended by Chapter
18 136 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2010
19 Section 2

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Health – General**

23 18–214.1.

24 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Health of the Baltimore
2 City Health Department.

3 (3) “Program” means the Expedited Partner Therapy [Pilot] Program.

4 (b) There is an Expedited Partner Therapy [Pilot] Program in the Baltimore City
5 Health Department.

6 (c) The purpose of the Program is to provide antibiotic therapy to the partner of
7 a patient diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection identified in subsection (d) of this
8 section in order to contain the infection and stop the further spread of it.

9 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in a public health clinic
10 established by the Commissioner in Baltimore City, the following health care providers
11 may dispense or otherwise provide antibiotic therapy to any sexual partner of a patient
12 diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea without making a personal physical assessment of
13 the patient’s partner:

14 (1) A physician licensed under Title 14 of the Health Occupations Article;

15 (2) [A certified nurse practitioner] **AN ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE**
16 **WITH PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY CERTIFIED UNDER TITLE 8 OF THE HEALTH**
17 **OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE, ACTING** in accordance with § 8–508 of the Health Occupations
18 Article; and

19 (3) An authorized physician assistant **LICENSED UNDER TITLE 15 OF**
20 **THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE, ACTING** in accordance with § 15–302.2 of the
21 Health Occupations Article.

22 (e) The Secretary shall adopt regulations to implement the requirements of this
23 section.

24 [(f) On or before December 31, 2007, and each year thereafter, the Baltimore City
25 Health Department shall report to the Governor and, subject to § 2–1246 of the State
26 Government Article, the General Assembly, on the operation and performance of the
27 Expedited Partner Therapy Pilot Program.]

28 **Chapter 146 of the Acts of 2007, as amended by Chapter 136 of the Acts of 2010**

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
30 1, 2007. [It shall remain effective for a period of 8 years and, at the end of June 30, 2015,
31 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
32 of no further force and effect.]

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
34 1, 2015.