SENATE BILL 599

ENROLLED BILL
— Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/Health and Government Operations —
Introduced by Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request – Departmental – Health and Mental Hygiene)

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

_______________________________________________
Proofreader.

_______________________________________________
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this _____ day of __________ at _______________ o’clock, ______M.

_______________________________________________
President.

CHAPTER ______

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Public Health – Expedited Partner Therapy for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea

3 FOR the purpose of repealing certain provisions of law establishing an Expedited Partner Therapy Pilot Program in the Baltimore City Health Department; providing for the purpose of expedited partner therapy; authorizing certain health care providers who diagnose chlamydia or gonorrhea in an individual patient to prescribe, dispense, or otherwise provide prescription antibiotic drugs to that patient’s sexual partners without examination of that patient’s partners; requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt certain regulations; repealing a certain reporting requirement regarding the Expedited Partner Therapy Pilot Program; providing for the construction of certain provisions of this Act; repealing certain definitions; extending repealing the termination date of the Expedited Partner Therapy Pilot Program within the Baltimore City Health Department; providing for the effective

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.
Strike-out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.
Italics indicate opposite chamber/confere
SENATE BILL 599

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health – General
Section 18–214.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Chapter 146 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007, as amended by Chapter
Section 2

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

Article – Health – General

18–214.1.

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

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

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

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

(c) (A) The purpose of [the Program] EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY is to
provide antibiotic therapy to [the] ANY partner of a patient diagnosed with a sexually
transmitted infection identified in subsection [(d)] (B) of this section in order to[contain
the infection]:

(1) CONTAIN and stop the further spread of [it] THE INFECTION; AND

(2) REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF REINFECTION IN THE DIAGNOSED
PATIENT.

[(d) (B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, [in a public health clinic
established by the Commissioner in Baltimore City,] the following health care providers
may PRESCRIBE, dispense, or otherwise provide antibiotic therapy to any sexual partner
of a patient diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea without making a personal physical
assessment of the patient’s partner:]
(1) A physician licensed under Title 14 of the Health Occupations Article;

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

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

(c) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO OTHERWISE EXPAND THE
PRESCRIBING OR DISPENSING AUTHORITY OF AN ADVANCED PRACTICE
REGISTERED NURSE WITH PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY OR A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT.

[(e)] (D) The Secretary shall adopt regulations to implement the requirements
of this section IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HEALTH CARE SETTINGS IN THE STATE.

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
as follows:


SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 8 years AND 3 MONTHS and, at the end of
June 30, 2015] SEPTEMBER 30, 2015, with no further action required by the General
Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall take
effect October 1, 2015.

SECTION 4. 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in
Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 2015.