

# SENATE BILL 599

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By: **Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request  
– Departmental – Health and Mental Hygiene)**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Expedited Partner Therapy for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea**

3 FOR the purpose of providing for the purpose of expedited partner therapy; authorizing  
4 certain health care providers who diagnose chlamydia or gonorrhea in an individual  
5 patient to prescribe, dispense, or otherwise provide prescription antibiotic drugs to  
6 that patient's sexual partners without examination of that patient's partners;  
7 requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt certain regulations;  
8 repealing a certain reporting requirement regarding the Expedited Partner Therapy  
9 Pilot Program; providing for the construction of certain provisions of this Act;  
10 repealing certain definitions; extending the termination date of the Expedited  
11 Partner Therapy Pilot Program within the Baltimore City Health Department;  
12 providing for the effective dates of this Act; and generally relating to expedited  
13 partner therapy for chlamydia and gonorrhea.

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

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
20 Chapter 146 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007, as amended by Chapter  
21 136 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2010  
22 Section 2

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

25 **Article – Health – General**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 18-214.1.

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

3 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Health of the Baltimore  
4 City Health Department.

5 (3) "Program" means the Expedited Partner Therapy Pilot Program.

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

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

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

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

15 [(d) (B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, [in a public health clinic  
16 established by the Commissioner in Baltimore City,] the following health care providers  
17 may **PRESCRIBE**, dispense, or otherwise provide antibiotic therapy to any sexual partner  
18 of a patient diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea without making a personal physical  
19 assessment of the patient's partner:

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

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

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

28 (C) **THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO OTHERWISE EXPAND THE**  
29 **PRESCRIBING OR DISPENSING AUTHORITY OF AN ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE WITH**  
30 **PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY OR A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT.**

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

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

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

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

8           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
9 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 8 years **AND 3 MONTHS** and, at the end of  
10 **[June 30, 2015] SEPTEMBER 30, 2015**, with no further action required by the General  
11 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

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

14           SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section  
15 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 2015.