

SENATE BILL 599

J1

5lr0031

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2015

CHAPTER _____

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

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.



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

3 **Article – Health – General**

4 18–214.1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
 14 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 8 years **AND 3 MONTHS** and, at the end of
 15 **[June 30, 2015] SEPTEMBER 30, 2015**, with no further action required by the General
 16 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

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

19 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section
 20 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 2015.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.