

## Chapter 183

**(Senate Bill 599)**

AN ACT concerning

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

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 dates of this Act~~ *making certain clarifying and conforming changes*; and generally relating to expedited partner therapy for chlamydia and gonorrhea.

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 136 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2010  
 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:

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

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.

**Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.**