



**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill Number:** House Bill 127 – Public Health - Nonoccupational Postexposure Prophylaxis (nPEP) Standing Order Program - Establishment

**Hearing Date:** January 31, 2024

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *House Bill 127 – Public Health - Nonoccupational Postexposure Prophylaxis (nPEP) Standing Order Program - Establishment*. This bill establishes the nPEP Standing Order Program to authorize pharmacists and non-clinicians to dispense nPEP under written orders with a prescriber.

Maryland continues to experience too-high rate of infections for HIV. In 2021, 749 new people were diagnosed with HIV<sup>i</sup>. Under the bill, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is proposing a public health strategy to reach more people with nPEP in time to reduce their risk on contracting HIV. It can take too long for at-risk individuals to obtain nPEP if they have to obtain appointments with providers. The bill will allow pharmacists and community programs to dispense nPEP to individuals who have been exposed to HIV and then link them to the health care system for follow-up care.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/statistics.html>