SENATE BILL 394

J1, J2 6lr1894
CF HB 422

By: **Senator Gile**
Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2026
Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: February 16, 2026

CHAPTER _____

AN ACT concerning

Public Health – Expedited Partner Therapy – Bacterial Vaginosis <u>and Licensed Certified Midwives</u>

FOR the purpose of adding bacterial vaginosis to the list of diagnoses for which certain health care ~~providers~~ <u>practitioners</u> may prescribe, dispense, or otherwise provide antibiotic therapy to a sexual partner of a diagnosed patient without making a certain assessment of the sexual partner; <u>adding licensed certified midwives to the list of health care practitioners who may prescribe, dispense, or otherwise provide antibiotic therapy to a sexual partner of a diagnosed patient without making a certain assessment of the sexual partner;</u> and generally relating to expedited partner therapy.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Health – General
Section 18–214.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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.

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
[Brackets**]** indicate matter deleted from existing law.
<u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

(a) The purpose of expedited partner therapy is to provide antibiotic therapy to any partner of a patient diagnosed with ~~a sexually transmitted infection~~ **AN INFECTION TRANSMITTED THROUGH SEXUAL ACTIVITY** identified in subsection (b) of this section in order to:

(1) Contain and stop the further spread of the infection; and

(2) Reduce the likelihood of reinfection in the diagnosed patient.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the following health care providers may prescribe, dispense, or otherwise provide antibiotic therapy to **[**any**] A** sexual partner of a patient diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea, **[**or**]** trichomoniasis**, OR BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS** without making a personal physical assessment of the patient's partner:

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

(2) 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;

(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; ~~and~~

(4) A registered nurse employed by a local health department who complies with:

(i) The formulary developed and approved under § 3–403(b) of this article; and

(ii) The requirements established under § 8–512 of the Health Occupations Article**; AND**

(5) A CERTIFIED MIDWIFE LICENSED UNDER TITLE 8, SUBTITLE 6D 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.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a pharmacist licensed under Title 12 of the Health Occupations Article may dispense antibiotic therapy prescribed in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

(e) The Secretary shall adopt regulations to implement the requirements of this section in public and private health care settings in the State.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.