



Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Bill Number: Senate Bill 246 – Public Health - Nonoccupational Postexposure Prophylaxis (nPEP) Standing Order Program - Establishment

Hearing Date: January 30, 2024

Position: Support

The Maryland Nurses Association (MNA) supports *Senate Bill 246 – 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 HIVⁱ. 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 or (443) 926-3443.

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