

TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Anna Powell, MD
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Johns Hopkins Medicine*

SB394
Favorable

DATE: February 11, 2026

RE: SB394 Public Health - Expedited Partner Therapy - Bacterial Vaginosis

Johns Hopkins supports **SB394 Public Health - Expedited Partner Therapy - Bacterial Vaginosis**. This bill adds bacterial vaginosis (BV) to the list of diagnoses for which a health care provider may prescribe, dispense, or provide antibiotic therapy to a sexual partner of a diagnosed patient without making a personal physical assessment of the sexual partner. Treating a sexual partner without a personal physical assessment is called Expedited Partner Therapy and is an incredibly safe and useful option in treating patients. Johns Hopkins supports initiatives that ease access to important medical care for patients.

Expedited Partner Therapy is currently allowed in Maryland for chlamydia, gonorrhea and trichomoniasis. Including BV as an allowable diagnosis is aligned with best clinical practice, as stated in an article from the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Research shows that treatment for both male and female partners resulted in a lower rate of recurrence of BV within 12 weeks than standard care¹.

Creating greater access to the treatment referenced above by allowing a provider to authorize treatment as quickly as possible is essential to seeing the positive results found in the research in Maryland. We appreciate the Sponsor's introducing this legislation to improve access to care and reduce the impact of BV.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on SB394.

¹ Vodstrcil, L.A. et al. (2025) 'Male-partner treatment to prevent recurrence of bacterial vaginosis', *New England Journal of Medicine*, 392(10), pp. 947–957. doi:10.1056/nejmoa2405404.