

SENATE BILL 394

J1, J2

6lr1894
CF HB 422

By: **Senator Gile**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Expedited Partner Therapy – Bacterial Vaginosis and Licensed Certified Midwives**

3 FOR the purpose of adding bacterial vaginosis to the list of diagnoses for which certain
4 health care ~~providers~~ practitioners may prescribe, dispense, or otherwise provide
antibiotic
5 therapy to a sexual partner of a diagnosed patient without making a certain
6 assessment of the sexual partner; 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; and generally relating to expedited partner
7 therapy.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Health – General
10 Section 18–214.1
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Health – General**

16 18–214.1.

17 (a) The purpose of expedited partner therapy is to provide antibiotic therapy to
18 any partner of a patient diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection identified in
19 subsection (b) of this section in order to:

- 20 (1) Contain and stop the further spread of the infection; and
- 21 (2) Reduce the likelihood of reinfection in the diagnosed patient.

2 **REPRINT OF SENATE BILL 394 as amended by SB0394/553922/1 02/09/26 at 9:49 AM**

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

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

7 (2) An advanced practice registered nurse with prescriptive authority
 8 licensed under Title 8 of the Health Occupations Article acting in accordance with § 8-508
 9 of the Health Occupations Article;

10 (3) An authorized physician assistant licensed under Title 15 of the Health
 11 Occupations Article acting in accordance with § 15-302.2 of the Health Occupations Article;
 12 and

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

15 (i) The formulary developed and approved under § 3-403(b) of this
 16 article; ~~and~~

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

**(5) A CERTIFIED MIDWIFE LICENSED UNDER TITLE 8, SUBTITLE 6D OF THE HEALTH
 OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.**

19 (c) This section may not be construed to otherwise expand the prescribing or
 20 dispensing authority of an advanced practice registered nurse with prescriptive authority
 21 or a physician assistant.

22 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a pharmacist licensed under Title
 23 12 of the Health Occupations Article may dispense antibiotic therapy prescribed in
 24 accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

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

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