

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 394
Finance

(Senator Gile)

Health

Public Health - Expedited Partner Therapy - Bacterial Vaginosis

This bill adds bacterial vaginosis to the list of conditions for which antibiotic therapy can be provided to an individual under the State’s expedited partner therapy (EPT) program. The bill also authorizes a licensed certified midwife to provide antibiotic therapy under the program and replaces the term “sexually transmitted infection” with “an infection transmitted through sexual activity” with respect to the program.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Maryland Department of Health can update EPT regulations and provider materials with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: EPT is the practice of providing antibiotic therapy to the sexual partner of a patient diagnosed with certain sexually transmitted infections without an intervening medical evaluation to stop the further spread of the infection and reduce the likelihood of reinfection in the diagnosed patient.

Chapter 183 of 2015 modified the existing Baltimore City EPT Pilot Program to make the provision of EPT a permanent option and authorize the use of EPT throughout Maryland. Physicians, advanced practice registered nurses with prescriptive authority, physician assistants, pharmacists, and certain registered nurses employed by local health departments

may prescribe, dispense, or otherwise provide antibiotic therapy to any sexual partner of a patient diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea, or trichomoniasis without making a physical assessment of the patient's partner.

Additional Comments: Bacterial vaginosis is a condition that occurs when there is an imbalance of certain bacteria in the vagina. It can be treated with antibiotics. A recent [study](#) showed that certain male partner treatments for bacterial vaginosis are correlated with reduced recurrence of bacterial vaginosis in the short term.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 422 (Delegate Bagnall, *et al.*) - Health.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 5, 2026
jg/jc Third Reader - March 19, 2026
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 19, 2026

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