

**Reduction of Outstanding Arrest Warrants  
(HB 1259, Chapter 683, Act 2000)**

**A Report to the Maryland General Assembly**

**Maryland Department of Transportation**

**Motor Vehicle Administration**

MSAR #458

October 2022

This annual report was prepared in response to language contained in House Bill 1259, (Chapter 683, Acts 2000), which directs:

*“That the Motor Vehicle Administration, in consultation with the primary law enforcement officers in the State that provide information to the Administration under Section 1 of this Act regarding individuals named in outstanding arrest warrants, shall report to the General Assembly pursuant to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article by October 1, 2002 and each year thereafter on the effectiveness of this Act in reducing the number of outstanding arrest warrants in those jurisdictions that provide arrest warrant information to the Administration.”*

This Act directed that the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) suspend an individual’s driver’s license and refuse to register or transfer the registration of the individual’s vehicles if the individual is named in an outstanding arrest warrant (OAW). As drafted, the legislation specifically states that the program is optional for local police agencies. Despite this, the MDOT MVA has reached out to State and local law enforcement agencies on numerous occasions, initially working to design the program and acquaint police officers with the program benefits and operation.

The MDOT MVA worked with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to develop an automated interaction between the OAW Program and the current Maryland Telecommunications Enforcement Resource System (METERS) used by law enforcement. Those enforcement agencies who are participants in the OAW program no longer need to enter the warrant information into two separate systems, thus eliminating duplicative steps. All law enforcement agencies are aware of this service.

Since the program’s inception on December 1, 2001, 54 law enforcement agencies, approximately 19 percent of all law enforcement agencies in Maryland, have either participated or enrolled to participate. Although the Maryland State Police (MSP) is one agency, there are 23 MSP Barracks that participate and report separately. Because the totals are cumulative, the number of outstanding warrants that are reported by the participating law enforcement agencies, the number of suspensions imposed by the MDOT MVA, and the number of warrants that are satisfied are all increasing, while relative relationships between those numbers remain fairly consistent. Interestingly, several jurisdictions that did not report any new warrants in the past year still saw increases in warrants satisfied, indicating that the program continues to work, even on old warrants.

Year-to-date, the 2022 overall “false positive” rate is 57 percent (254 out of 447), which means that of the 447 customers for whom the MDOT MVA had to contact law enforcement to confirm a warrant, 254 of those customers’ warrants had already been satisfied, but the warrants weren’t cleared from the MDOT MVA’s system by the law enforcement agency. The two police agencies with the highest number of false positives, the Anne Arundel County Sheriff’s Office and the Prince George’s County Sheriff’s Office, accounted for 44 percent and 18 percent of total false positives, respectively. The MDOT MVA is actively working with both of those jurisdictions to reconcile their warrants with MDOT MVA’s law enforcement agency flags.

## Outstanding Arrest Warrant Statistical Totals

October 2004 through August 15, 2022†

Law Enforcement Agency	Date Joined	Notices	Suspended	Mistaken	Satisfied	Removed
Anne Arundel Co. Sheriff's Office	3/26/2003	70,919	36,666	25	34,451	0
Baltimore City Police Department**	4/30/2008	8,093	5,805	627	5,525	3
Baltimore City Sheriff's Office	8/2/2004	872	408	0	456	0
Baltimore Co. Police Department	12/4/2001	31,265	26,833	7	23,204	0
Baltimore Co. Sheriff's Office**	3/21/2009	1,731	1,525	0	1,294	0
Caroline Co. Sheriff's Office**	1/4/2005	51	34	1	36	0
Carroll Co. Sheriff's Office**	5/11/2002	272	202	0	212	0
Cecil County Sheriff's Office**	3/1/2005	0	0	0	0	0
Charles Co. Sheriff's Office	10/23/2002	3,851	2,672	9	1,160	0
Dorchester Co. Sheriff's Office**	3/24/2005	791	426	3	404	0
Easton Police Department**	2/1/2011	156	82	0	31	0
Frederick Co. Police Department**	7/21/2003	1,235	753	3	577	0
Frederick Co. Sheriff's Office**	4/30/2008	21	17	0	9	0
Garrett Co. Sheriff's Office**	5/5/2003	5	0	0	0	0
Harford Co. Sheriff's Office	11/13/2002	22,706	14,071	4	9,951	167
Howard Co. Police Department	8/19/2004	11,101	6,023	5	5,238	0
Howard Co. Sheriff's Office	10/28/2002	2,149	1,478	7	1,190	3
Hurlock Police Department**	3/1/2011	0	0	0	0	0
Manchester Police Department**	12/17/2001	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery Co. Police Department	7/14/2003	55,842	44,172	44	38,458	11
Montgomery Co. Sheriff's Office**	1/1/2012	341	226	0	254	0
Prince George's Co. Sheriff's Office*	12/22/2009	79,101	26,363	19,033	34,070	4,077
Queen Anne's Co. Sheriff's Office **	11/23/2005	161	98	0	67	0
Rockville City Police Department	5/1/2002	3,122	2,065	3	1,962	1
Ridgely Police Department**	8/16/2004	0	0	0	0	0
Rising Sun Police Department**	5/1/2011	7	1	0	3	0
Talbot Co. Sheriff's Office**	3/1/2011	2	0	0	1	0
Washington Co. Sheriff's Office	7/2/2002	10,541	5,758	0	4,875	5
MD Natural Resources Police	10/1/2011	1,861	1,010	0	597	0
MD Transportation Auth./BWI**	10/29/2008	9	6	0	6	0
MD Transportation Authority**	10/23/2008	10	2	0	4	0
MSP: Barrack A – Waterloo**	7/6/2009	578	376	0	306	0
MSP: Barrack B – Frederick**	7/6/2009	732	460	0	418	0
MSP: Barrack C – Cumberland	7/6/2009	132	45	0	87	0
MSP: Barrack D – Bel Air	7/6/2009	780	446	2	343	0
MSP: Barrack E – Salisbury**	3/25/2003	475	327	0	137	0
MSP: Barrack F – North East**	3/25/2003	970	599	10	459	0
MSP: Barrack G – Westminster**	9/26/2002	772	651	2	566	0
MSP: Barrack H – La Plata**	7/6/2009	619	362	4	287	0
MSP: Barrack I – Easton	7/6/2009	2,381	1,385	0	817	0
MSP: Barrack J – Annapolis**	3/27/2003	644	297	1	304	0
MSP: Barrack L – Forestville**	7/6/2009	6	3	0	3	0
MSP: Barrack M – JFK Memorial Highway	7/26/2009	744	498	0	292	0
MSP: Barrack N – Rockville	7/6/2009	2,020	1,108	0	1,014	0
MSP: Barrack O – Hagerstown	3/24/2003	315	178	0	58	0
MSP: Barrack P – Glen Burnie	7/16/2002	2,306	1,672	6	1,475	5
MSP: Barrack Q – College Park**	7/6/2009	3	0	0	0	0
MSP: Barrack R – Golden Ring	7/6/2009	694	499	2	325	1
MSP: Barrack S – Centreville**	7/6/2009	1,137	852	10	575	0
MSP: Barrack T – Leonardtown**	3/25/2003	85	47	0	38	9
MSP: Barrack U – Prince Frederick	7/6/2009	1,687	884	0	873	0
MSP: Barrack V – Berlin**	7/6/2009	146	94	2	81	0
MSP: Barrack W – Mc Henry	3/26/2003	297	125	0	111	0
MSP: Barrack X – Princess Anne**	7/6/2009	41	15	0	26	0
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>323,779</b>	<b>187,619</b>	<b>19,810</b>	<b>172,630</b>	<b>4,282</b>

\*After reconciling outstanding arrest warrants with drivers who were suspended as a result of warrant flags, Prince George's County submitted removals to lift a large number of "false positive" suspensions

\*\*Indicates agencies who have not reported in 2022 as of August 15, 2022.

†Please note that statistics for November 2021 have been lost due to system conversion. We are unable to retrieve those numbers.

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Notices</b>	323,779	314,198	303,826	272,569	259,283	244,423	229,001	209,206	186,224	170,317
<b>Suspended</b>	187,619	182,404	177,371	158,809	150,067	140,828	129,666	120,690	108,577	99,341
<b>Suspended as % of Notices</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Satisfied/Mistaken/Removed</b>	196,772	191,751	183,685	167,294	158,946	150,549	141,538	128,451	117,437	104,984
<b>S/M/R as % of Notices</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>Satisfied</b>	172,630	167,659	159,595	145,351	138,936	130,551	121,546	108,460	97,453	77,111
<b>Satisfied as % of Suspended</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>78%</b>

<b>Transactions Denied</b>	
<b>09/06/2004 – 11/05/2021*</b>	
<b>Registrations Denied</b>	<b>Driver's Licenses Denied</b>
18,289	4,802

\* Please note that this information is not current due to a system conversion. The MDOT MVA will continue to work towards a solution where we can retrieve this information going forward.