

A Report to the Maryland General Assembly

Regarding

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

The Maryland Department of Transportation

September 2017

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

This annual report was prepared in response to language contained in HB 1259, (Chapter 683, Acts 2000). Specifically, the language 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 directs that the Motor Vehicle Administration (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). The legislation specifically says that the program is optional for local police agencies. Despite this, the 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 MVA worked with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to develop an automated interaction between the OAW Program and the current Meter System used by law enforcement. Law 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% of all law enforcement agencies in Maryland, have either participated or enrolled to participate. Although Maryland State Police (MSP) is one agency, there are 23 MSP Barracks that participate and report separately. It appears that each year, the number of outstanding warrants that are reported by the participating law enforcement agencies, the number of suspensions imposed by the MVA, and the number of warrants that are satisfied are all increasing.

In monitoring the branch activity, there is still a concern regarding the error rate, which remains around 50%. This means that around half of the individuals whose driving privileges were suspended for having an outstanding arrest warrant should not have been suspended. The warrant had either been satisfied or recalled, and the MVA had not been notified. We regularly communicate with law enforcement agencies to reduce the error rate.

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

Outstanding Arrest Warrant Statistical Totals						
October 2004 through July 5, 2017						
Law Enforcement Agency	Date Joined	Notices	Suspended	Mistaken	Satisfied	Removed
Anne Arundel Co. Sheriff's Office	03/26/2003	53,065	26,652	25	25,228	0
Baltimore City Police Department	04/30/2008	8,093	5,805	627	5,387	3
Baltimore City Sheriff's Office	08/02/2004	322	120	0	120	0
Baltimore Co. Police Department	12/04/2001	26,148	22,384	7	19,548	0
Baltimore Co. Sheriff's Office	03/21/2009	1,731	1,525	0	1,270	0
Caroline Co. Sheriff's Office	01/04/2005	51	34	1	34	0
Carroll Co. Sheriff's Office	05/11/2002	272	202	0	212	0
Cecil County Sheriff's Office**	03/01/2005	0	0	0	0	0
Charles Co. Sheriff's Office	10/23/2002	1,890	1,452	9	921	0
Dorchester Co. Sheriff's Office	03/24/2005	746	405	3	368	0
Easton Police Department	02/01/2011	155	81	0	29	0
Frederick Co. Police Department	07/21/2003	1,235	753	3	561	0
Frederick Co. Sheriff's Office	04/30/2008	21	17	0	9	0
Garrett Co. Sheriff's Office**	05/05/2003	5	0	0	0	0
Harford Co. Sheriff's Office	11/13/2002	16,493	10,772	4	6,972	167
Howard Co. Police Department	08/19/2004	7,822	4,258	5	3,598	0
Howard Co. Sheriff's Office	10/28/2002	1,130	823	6	669	3
Hurlock Police Department**	03/01/2011	0	0	0	0	0
Manchester Police Department**	12/17/2001	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery Co. Police Department	07/14/2003	48,261	38,032	37	32,274	11
Montgomery Co. Sheriff's Office	01/01/2012	341	226	0	247	0
Prince George's Co. Sheriff's Office*	12/22/2009	52,840	12,495	19,033	21,504	0
Queen Anne's Co. Sheriff's Office	11/23/2005	158	95	0	64	0
Rockville City Police Department	05/01/2002	2,270	1,634	3	1,584	1
Ridgely Police Department**	08/16/2004	0	0	0	0	0
Rising Sun Police Department**	05/01/2011	7	1	0	3	0
Talbot Co. Sheriff's Office**	03/01/2011	2	0	0	1	0
Washington Co. Sheriff's Office	07/02/2002	7,023	4,016	0	3,285	5
MD Natural Resources Police	10/01/2011	1,101	600	0	316	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	07/06/2009	578	376	0	296	0
MSP: Barrack B – Frederick	07/06/2009	394	253	0	202	0
MSP: Barrack C – Cumberland	07/06/2009	71	26	0	43	0
MSP: Barrack D – Bel Air	07/06/2009	481	303	2	207	0
MSP: Barrack E – Salisbury	03/25/2003	475	327	0	136	0
MSP: Barrack F – North East	03/25/2003	966	598	10	438	0
MSP: Barrack G – Westminster	09/26/2002	772	651	2	551	0
MSP: Barrack H – La Plata	07/06/2009	490	293	4	219	0
MSP: Barrack I – Easton	07/06/2009	1,180	679	0	335	0
MSP: Barrack J – Annapolis***	03/27/2003	644	297	1	304	0
MSP: Barrack L – Forestville**	07/06/2009	6	3	0	3	0
MSP: Barrack M – JFK Memorial Highway	07/26/2009	584	397	0	229	0
MSP: Barrack N – Rockville	07/06/2009	1,089	628	0	620	0
MSP: Barrack O – Hagerstown	03/24/2003	314	177	0	56	0
MSP: Barrack P – Glen Burnie	07/16/2002	2,079	1,536	6	1,292	5
MSP: Barrack Q – College Park**	07/06/2009	3	0	0	0	0
MSP: Barrack R – Golden Ring	07/06/2009	511	337	2	197	1
MSP: Barrack S – Centreville	07/06/2009	1,137	852	10	512	0
MSP: Barrack T – Leonardtown	03/25/2003	58	38	0	27	0
MSP: Barrack U – Prince Frederick	07/06/2009	947	460	0	479	0
MSP: Barrack V – Berlin	07/06/2009	146	94	2	81	0
MSP: Barrack W – Mc Henry	03/26/2003	256	107	0	84	0
MSP: Barrack X – Princess Anne**	07/06/2009	41	15	0	26	0
TOTALS		244,423	140,828	19,802	130,551	196

* Errors submitted by Prince George's County Sheriff's Office in 2010, corrected in 2011.

**Indicates agencies who have not reported in 2017 as of July 5, 2017.

***Closed in 2008 and reopened in 2015.

Outstanding Warrants (Cumulative Totals)

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Notices	244,423	229,001	209,206	186,224	170,317	155,740	140,781	112,260	86,826	70,054
Suspended	140,828	129,666	120,690	108,577	99,341	90,385	80,982	85,327	61,733	50,874
Suspended as % of Notices	57%	57%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	76%	71%	73%
Satisfied/Mistaken/Removed	150,549	141,538	128,451	117,437	104,984	95,775	88,213	57,661	47,471	38,215
S/M/R as % of Notices	61%	61%	61%	63%	62%	61%	63%	51%	55%	55%
Satisfied	130,551	121,546	108,460	97,453	77,111	75,839	68,282	57,359	47,199	37,980
Satisfied as % of Suspended	92%	93%	90%	90%	78%	84%	84%	67%	76%	75%

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* Note: Anomalous years. Erroneous numbers due to programming errors submitted by Prince George's County Sheriff's Office in 2010 were corrected in 2011.

Transactions Denied	
09/06/2004 – 07/05/2017	
Registrations Denied	Driver's Licenses Denied
12,062	4,203