

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 2018

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 directed 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 METERS 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 false positives rate, which is about 50%. This means that approximately half of the individuals whose driving privileges are suspended for having an outstanding arrest warrant have satisfied the warrant, but the law enforcement agency did not notify the MVA to clear the suspension. Two (2) law enforcement agencies account for 50% of these false positives, and we are regularly communicating with all law enforcement agencies to reduce the false positive rate.

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

Outstanding Arrest Warrant Statistical Totals						
October 2004 through July 5, 2018						
Law Enforcement Agency	Date Joined	Notices	Suspended	Mistaken	Satisfied	Removed
Anne Arundel Co. Sheriff's Office	3/26/2003	58,032	29,287	25	27,397	0
Baltimore City Police Department	4/30/2008	8,093	5,805	627	5,435	3
Baltimore City Sheriff's Office	8/2/2004	671	297	0	273	0
Baltimore Co. Police Department	12/4/2001	27,491	23,647	7	20,584	0
Baltimore Co. Sheriff's Office	3/21/2009	1,731	1,525	0	1,278	0
Caroline Co. Sheriff's Office	1/4/2005	51	34	1	34	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	2,075	1,516	9	927	0
Dorchester Co. Sheriff's Office	3/24/2005	784	424	3	388	0
Easton Police Department	2/1/2011	155	81	0	29	0
Frederick Co. Police Department	7/21/2003	1,235	753	3	565	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	18,221	11,705	4	7,701	167
Howard Co. Police Department	8/19/2004	8,859	4,806	5	4,075	0
Howard Co. Sheriff's Office	10/28/2002	1,246	918	6	731	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	51,072	40,288	40	34,321	11
Montgomery Co. Sheriff's Office	1/1/2012	341	226	0	250	0
Prince George's Co. Sheriff's Office*	12/22/2009	52,853	12,501	19,033	22,012	0
Queen Anne's Co. Sheriff's Office	11/23/2005	161	98	0	67	0
Rockville City Police Department	5/1/2002	2,471	1,746	3	1,688	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	7,883	4,446	0	3,649	5
MD Natural Resources Police	10/1/2011	1,245	689	0	375	0
MD Transportation Auth./BW1	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	300	0
MSP: Barrack B – Frederick	7/6/2009	500	311	0	248	0
MSP: Barrack C – Cumberland	7/6/2009	93	37	0	54	0
MSP: Barrack D – Bel Air	7/6/2009	546	326	2	239	0
MSP: Barrack E – Salisbury	3/25/2003	475	327	0	136	0
MSP: Barrack F – North East	3/25/2003	970	599	10	446	0
MSP: Barrack G – Westminster	9/26/2002	772	651	2	556	0
MSP: Barrack H – La Plata	7/6/2009	553	328	4	249	0
MSP: Barrack I – Easton	7/6/2009	1,327	759	0	391	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	641	432	0	253	0
MSP: Barrack N – Rockville	7/6/2009	1,315	738	0	716	0
MSP: Barrack O – Hagerstown	3/24/2003	314	177	0	57	0
MSP: Barrack P – Glen Burnie	7/16/2002	2,236	1,636	6	1,399	5
MSP: Barrack Q – College Park	7/6/2009	3	0	0	0	0
MSP: Barrack R – Golden Ring	7/6/2009	581	405	2	247	1
MSP: Barrack S – Centreville	7/6/2009	1,137	852	10	535	0
MSP: Barrack T – Leonardtown	3/25/2003	60	38	0	28	9
MSP: Barrack U – Prince Frederick	7/6/2009	1,076	532	0	558	0
MSP: Barrack V – Berlin	7/6/2009	146	94	2	81	0
MSP: Barrack W – Mc Henry	3/26/2003	273	114	0	96	0
MSP: Barrack X – Princess Anne	7/6/2009	41	15	0	26	0
TOTALS		259,283	150,067	19,805	138,936	205
* Errors submitted by Prince George's County Sheriff's Office in 2010, corrected in 2011.						
**Indicates agencies who have not reported in 2018 as of July 5, 2018.						
***Closed in 2008 and reopened in 2015.						

**Outstanding Warrants
(Cumulative Totals)**

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Notices	259,283	244,423	229,001	209,206	186,224	170,317	155,740	140,781	112,260	86,826
Suspended	150,067	140,828	129,666	120,690	108,577	99,341	90,385	80,982	85,327	61,733
Suspended as % of Notices	58%	58%	57%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	76%	71%
Satisfied/Mistaken/Removed	158,946	150,549	141,538	128,451	117,437	104,984	95,775	88,213	57,661	47,471
S/M/R as % of Notices	61%	62%	62%	61%	63%	62%	61%	63%	51%	55%
Satisfied	138,936	130,551	121,546	108,460	97,453	77,111	75,839	68,282	57,359	47,199
Satisfied as % of Suspended	93%	93%	94%	90%	90%	78%	84%	84%	67%	76%

* 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 – 07/05/2018	
Registrations Denied	Driver's Licenses Denied
14,057	4,302