

A Report to the Maryland General Assembly

Regarding

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

The Maryland Department of Transportation

MSAR# 458

September 2019

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 positive 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. In our efforts to reduce the number of false positives, we recently sent a file to the agency with the highest rate of false positives (59%) requesting that they reconcile their open arrest warrants with the names of drivers whose licenses are suspended as a result of their flags. 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 (1,930) of false positive suspensions.

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

Outstanding Arrest Warrant Statistical Totals						
October 2004 through July 5, 2019						
Law Enforcement Agency	Date Joined	Notices	Suspended	Mistaken	Satisfied	Removed
Anne Arundel Co. Sheriff's Office	3/26/2003	62,840	32,579	25	28,732	0
Baltimore City Police Department	4/30/2008	8,093	5,805	627	5,475	3
Baltimore City Sheriff's Office	8/2/2004	850	385	0	382	0
Baltimore Co. Police Department	12/4/2001	28,738	24,721	7	21,544	0
Baltimore Co. Sheriff's Office	3/21/2009	1,731	1,525	0	1,286	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	2,902	2,045	9	981	0
Dorchester Co. Sheriff's Office	3/24/2005	789	426	3	396	0
Easton Police Department	2/1/2011	156	82	0	29	0
Frederick Co. Police Department	7/21/2003	1,235	753	3	567	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	19,344	12,260	4	8,224	167
Howard Co. Police Department	8/19/2004	9,487	5,133	5	4,419	0
Howard Co. Sheriff's Office	10/28/2002	1,304	968	6	791	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	53,721	42,254	43	36,344	11
Montgomery Co. Sheriff's Office	1/1/2012	341	226	0	252	0
Prince George's Co. Sheriff's Office*	12/22/2009	52,860	12,502	19,033	22,096	1,930
Queen Anne's Co. Sheriff's Office **	11/23/2005	161	98	0	67	0
Rockville City Police Department	5/1/2002	2,558	1,784	3	1,727	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	8,678	4,807	0	3,986	5
MD Natural Resources Police	10/1/2011	1,342	746	0	411	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	304	0
MSP: Barrack B – Frederick	7/6/2009	626	378	0	322	0
MSP: Barrack C – Cumberland	7/6/2009	103	39	0	62	0
MSP: Barrack D – Bel Air	7/6/2009	600	350	2	260	0
MSP: Barrack E – Salisbury**	3/25/2003	475	327	0	136	0
MSP: Barrack F – North East	3/25/2003	970	599	10	450	0
MSP: Barrack G – Westminster	9/26/2002	772	651	2	557	0
MSP: Barrack H – La Plata	7/6/2009	553	328	4	257	0
MSP: Barrack I – Easton	7/6/2009	1,564	887	0	465	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	646	435	0	266	0
MSP: Barrack N – Rockville	7/6/2009	1,493	821	0	802	0
MSP: Barrack O – Hagerstown	3/24/2003	314	177	0	58	0
MSP: Barrack P – Glen Burnie	7/16/2002	2,244	1,637	6	1,437	5
MSP: Barrack Q – College Park**	7/6/2009	3	0	0	0	0
MSP: Barrack R – Golden Ring	7/6/2009	643	454	2	288	1
MSP: Barrack S – Centreville	7/6/2009	1,137	852	10	559	0
MSP: Barrack T – Leonardtown	3/25/2003	66	41	0	31	9
MSP: Barrack U – Prince Frederick	7/6/2009	1,154	568	0	603	0
MSP: Barrack V – Berlin**	7/6/2009	146	94	2	81	0
MSP: Barrack W – Mc Henry	3/26/2003	284	119	0	102	0
MSP: Barrack X – Princess Anne**	7/6/2009	41	15	0	26	0
TOTALS		272,569	158,809	19,808	145,351	2,135
*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 2019 as of July 5, 2019.						

Outstanding Warrants (Cumulative Totals)										
	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Notices	272,569	259,283	244,423	229,001	209,206	186,224	170,317	155,740	140,781	112,260
Suspended	158,809	150,067	140,828	129,666	120,690	108,577	99,341	90,385	80,982	85,327
Suspended as % of Notices	58%	58%	58%	57%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	76%
Satisfied/Mistaken/Removed	167,294	158,946	150,549	141,538	128,451	117,437	104,984	95,775	88,213	57,661
S/M/R as % of Notices	61%	61%	62%	62%	61%	63%	62%	61%	63%	51%
Satisfied	145,351	138,936	130,551	121,546	108,460	97,453	77,111	75,839	68,282	57,359
Satisfied as % of Suspended	92%	93%	93%	94%	90%	90%	78%	84%	84%	67%

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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 – 07/05/2019	
Registrations Denied	Driver's Licenses Denied
15,888	4,420