

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

A Report to the Maryland General Assembly

The Maryland Department of Transportation  
Motor Vehicle Administration

MSAR# 458

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## **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 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). The legislation specifically says 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 and subsequently modify 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. 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. As one might expect, 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.

In monitoring the branch activity, the 2020 calendar-year overall “false positive” rate was 47%. This is the first time the false positive rate has dipped below 50% since the MDOT MVA began tracking this statistic. Although this is a slight overall decrease, the two (2) police agencies with the highest false positive rates have made significant progress in clearing their satisfied warrants from the MDOT MVA’s system. In calendar-year 2019, the false positive rate for each agency was approximately 59%, and in calendar-year 2020 their rates were 41% and 31%.

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

<b>Outstanding Arrest Warrant Statistical Totals</b>						
October 2004 through July 5, 2021						
<b>Law Enforcement Agency</b>	<b>Date Joined</b>	<b>Notices</b>	<b>Suspended</b>	<b>Mistaken</b>	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>Removed</b>
Anne Arundel Co. Sheriff's Office	3/26/2003	69,363	35,975	25	33,729	0
Baltimore City Police Department	4/30/2008	8,093	5,805	627	5,516	3
Baltimore City Sheriff's Office	8/2/2004	865	404	0	447	0
Baltimore Co. Police Department	12/4/2001	30,750	26,444	7	22,949	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	3,328	2,282	9	1,079	0
Dorchester Co. Sheriff's Office	3/24/2005	791	426	3	401	0
Easton Police Department	2/1/2011	156	82	0	31	0
Frederick Co. Police Department	7/21/2003	1,235	753	3	576	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	21,554	13,307	4	9,365	167
Howard Co. Police Department	8/19/2004	10,606	5,727	5	5,002	0
Howard Co. Sheriff's Office	10/28/2002	1,935	1,329	7	1,069	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	55,186	43,672	44	38,200	11
Montgomery Co. Sheriff's Office	1/1/2012	341	226	0	254	0
Prince George's Co. Sheriff's Office*	12/22/2009	76,603	25,508	19,033	32,233	4,077
Queen Anne's Co. Sheriff's Office **	11/23/2005	161	98	0	67	0
Rockville City Police Department	5/1/2002	2,924	1,965	3	1,884	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	10,025	5,445	0	4,590	5
MD Natural Resources Police	10/1/2011	1,582	880	0	518	0
MD Transportation Auth./BWJ**	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	732	460	0	416	0
MSP: Barrack C – Cumberland	7/6/2009	121	43	0	78	0
MSP: Barrack D – Bel Air	7/6/2009	688	395	2	306	0
MSP: Barrack E – Salisbury**	3/25/2003	475	327	0	137	0
MSP: Barrack F – North East	3/25/2003	970	599	10	458	0
MSP: Barrack G – Westminster	9/26/2002	772	651	2	566	0
MSP: Barrack H – La Plata	7/6/2009	619	362	4	281	0
MSP: Barrack I – Easton	7/6/2009	1,954	1,094	0	647	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	687	461	0	276	0
MSP: Barrack N – Rockville	7/6/2009	1,856	1,017	0	967	0
MSP: Barrack O – Hagerstown**	3/24/2003	314	177	0	58	0
MSP: Barrack P – Glen Burnie	7/16/2002	2,288	1,660	6	1,466	5
MSP: Barrack Q – College Park**	7/6/2009	3	0	0	0	0
MSP: Barrack R – Golden Ring	7/6/2009	693	498	2	324	1
MSP: Barrack S – Centreville	7/6/2009	1,137	852	10	573	0
MSP: Barrack T – Leonardtown	3/25/2003	85	47	0	38	9
MSP: Barrack U – Prince Frederick	7/6/2009	1,492	742	0	766	0
MSP: Barrack V – Berlin**	7/6/2009	146	94	2	81	0
MSP: Barrack W – Mc Henry	3/26/2003	291	119	0	109	0
MSP: Barrack X – Princess Anne**	7/6/2009	41	15	0	26	0
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>314,198</b>	<b>182,404</b>	<b>19,810</b>	<b>167,659</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 2021 as of July 5, 2021.						

**Outstanding Warrants  
(Cumulative Totals)**

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
<b>Notices</b>	314,198	303,826	272,569	259,283	244,423	229,001	209,206	186,224	170,317	155,740
<b>Suspended</b>	182,404	177,371	158,809	150,067	140,828	129,666	120,690	108,577	99,341	90,385
<b>Suspended as % of Notices</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>58%</b>
<b>Satisfied/Mistaken/Removed</b>	191,751	183,685	167,294	158,946	150,549	141,538	128,451	117,437	104,984	95,775
<b>S/M/R as % of Notices</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>61%</b>
<b>Satisfied</b>	167,659	159,595	145,351	138,936	130,551	121,546	108,460	97,453	77,111	75,839
<b>Satisfied as % of Suspended</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>84%</b>

**Transactions Denied  
09/06/2004 – 07/05/2021**

<b>Registrations Denied</b>	<b>Driver's Licenses Denied</b>
18,289	4,739