

**Reduction of Outstanding Arrest Warrants
(HB 1259, Chapter 683, Acts of 2000)
MSAR # 458**

A Report to the Maryland General Assembly

Maryland Department of Transportation
Motor Vehicle Administration

September 2023

This annual report was prepared in response to language contained in HB 1259, (Chapter 683, Acts of 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 Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) suspend an individual’s driver’s license and refuse to register or transfer the registration of the individual’s vehicle(s) 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’s 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 Maryland Telecommunications Enforcement Resources 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. However, the number of reporting jurisdictions is decreasing. 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 MVA, and the number of warrants that are satisfied are all increasing, while relative relationships between those numbers remain fairly consistent. The program’s effectiveness, however, is likely impacted by the decrease in reporting jurisdictions and the increase in “false positives.”

Year-to-date, the 2023 overall “false positive” rate has increased to 60% (221 out of 365). That means, of the 365 customers for whom the MVA had to contact law enforcement to confirm a warrant, 221 of those customers’ warrants had already been satisfied, but the warrants weren’t cleared from the MVA’s system by the law enforcement agency. The two (2) 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 42% and 21% of total false positives, respectively. The MVA is actively working with both of those jurisdictions in order to reconcile their warrants with the MVA’s LEA flags.

Outstanding Arrest Warrant Statistical Totals

October 2004 through August 9, 2023†

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	876	410	0	461	0
Baltimore Co. Police Department	12/4/2001	31,440	26,958	7	23,246	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	4,356	3,054	9	1,242	0
Dorchester Co. Sheriff's Office**	3/24/2005	791	426	3	405	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	24,127	14,900	4	10,513	167
Howard Co. Police Department	8/19/2004	11,580	6,298	5	5,459	0
Howard Co. Sheriff's Office	10/28/2002	2,407	1,645	7	1,263	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	55,843	44,173	44	38,459	11
Montgomery Co. Sheriff's Office**	1/1/2012	341	226	0	254	0
Prince George's Co. Sheriff's Office*	12/22/2009	79,112	26,370	19,033	34,077	4,077
Queen Anne's Co. Sheriff's Office **	11/23/2005	161	98	0	67	0
Rockville City Police Department	5/1/2002	3,318	2,185	3	2,042	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	10,818	5,941	1	5,037	5
MD Natural Resources Police	10/1/2011	2,187	1,146	0	677	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	144	55	0	92	0
MSP: Barrack D – Bel Air	7/6/2009	851	489	2	387	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	686	421	4	298	0
MSP: Barrack I – Easton	7/6/2009	2,896	1,692	0	995	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	834	562	0	320	0
MSP: Barrack N – Rockville	7/6/2009	2,787	1,589	0	1,161	0
MSP: Barrack O – Hagerstown	3/24/2003	316	179	0	59	0
MSP: Barrack P – Glen Burnie	7/16/2002	2,310	1,674	6	1,481	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	1,889	1,036	0	977	0
MSP: Barrack V – Berlin**	7/6/2009	146	94	2	81	0
MSP: Barrack W – Mc Henry	3/26/2003	319	147	0	113	0
MSP: Barrack X – Princess Anne**	7/6/2009	41	15	0	26	0
TOTALS		329,183	190,987	19,811	174,472	4,282

*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 the past year.

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

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Notices	329,183	323,779	314,198	303,826	272,569	259,283	244,423	229,001	209,206	186,224
Suspended	190,987	187,619	182,404	177,371	158,809	150,067	140,828	129,666	120,690	108,577
Suspended as % of Notices	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	57%	58%	58%
Satisfied/Mistaken/Removed	198,565	196,772	191,751	183,685	167,294	158,946	150,549	141,538	128,451	117,437
S/M/R as % of Notices	60%	61%	61%	60%	61%	61%	62%	62%	61%	63%
Satisfied	174,472	172,630	167,659	159,595	145,351	138,936	130,551	121,546	108,460	97,453
Satisfied as % of Suspended	91%	92%	92%	90%	92%	93%	93%	94%	90%	90%

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

* Please note that the MVA is working towards a solution where we can retrieve this information going forward and will provide it to the legislature as soon as available.