



Peter Franchot
Comptroller

December 2, 2013

Honorable Edward J. Kasemeyer
Senate Budget and Taxation
Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Honorable Sheila E. Hixson
House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Kasemeyer and Delegate Hixson,

As required by Chapter 213 of the 2013 Legislative Session, the Comptroller's office, by December 1st of each year through 2018, must report to the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee regarding the *Anne Arundel County Warrant Intercept Program*.

Chapter 451 of the 2012 Legislative Session authorized an official of federal, State, or local government charged with serving a criminal arrest warrant to request that the Comptroller withhold an individual's income tax refund until the warrant (exclusive of a body attachment) has been satisfied. Several qualifiers were put in place to identify the scope of this program, including the general confinement of the program to Anne Arundel County as well as exclusions for active duty members of the Armed Forces and joint income tax filers. In order for the Comptroller to withhold a refund, the warrant official, effectively the Sheriff of Anne Arundel County, has to certify to the Comptroller's office the existence of the warrant and certain identifying information. The Comptroller's office must then notify the individual of the certification and its implications and, if applicable, withhold the individual's refund until a notice to release is issued from the Sheriff.

The Sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Sheriff Bateman, advises that there are currently 8,109 outstanding warrants; of those 5,128 cannot be linked to the tax system because of missing identifying information (principally social security numbers). As of November 1, 2013 refunds where warrants have been satisfied and refunds released number 328 for a total of \$271,013. Refunds from outstanding warrants being held currently total 450 for \$343,481. Sheriff Bateman plans to provide further information to you and your committees regarding the program's success, including the disposition of the satisfied warrants.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or Andrew Schaufele, Director of the Bureau of Revenue Estimates.

Sincerely,

Peter Franchot
Comptroller

cc: Len Foxwell
David Roose