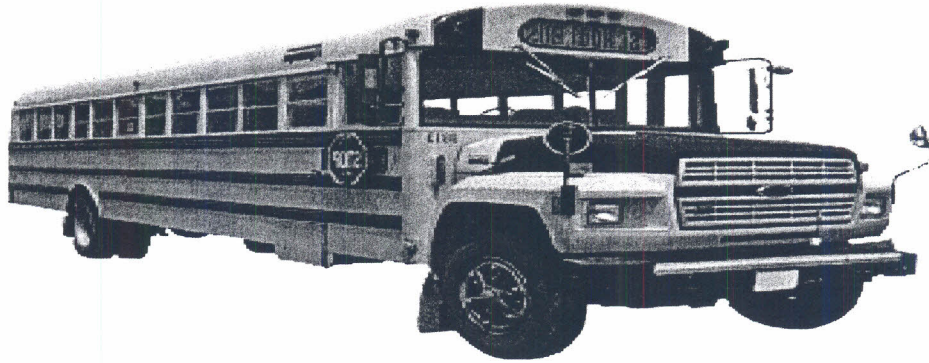




**School Bus Safety Enforcement Fund
Annual Report
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**



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Governor*

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Report of the School Bus Safety Enforcement Program

Introduction

During the 2000 Legislative Session, House Bill 104 – Vehicle Laws – Drivers Failing to Stop for School Buses – Enforcement Initiative was passed by the Maryland General Assembly. This bill established a five year program, which became effective on January 1, 2001, to provide grant funds to assist law enforcement agencies in addressing the problem of drivers illegally passing stopped school vehicles. During the 2002 Maryland General Assembly, Senate Bill 323, the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2002, made the School Bus Safety Enforcement Program permanent by deleting the sunset provision of the law which had created the program.

The legislation created a special non-lapsing fund, known as the School Bus Safety Enforcement Fund. During the 2008 Legislative Session, House Bill 705 – transferred the administration of the School Bus Safety Enforcement Fund from the Maryland Department of State Police (DSP) to the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, effective July 1, 2008.

This fund provides \$600,000 annually to the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP), of which \$550,000 is awarded in the form of grants to qualified law enforcement agencies for enforcement programs. The GOCCP may use up to \$50,000 of the \$600,000 to offset the cost of administering this program. To ensure that grant funds are dispersed throughout the State, at the start of each fiscal year, no more than \$35,000 in grants may be awarded per county. However, if grant funds remain after initial awards are made, supplemental awards may be made.

The Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention is responsible for the administration of this program. Under Governor O'Malley's administration, the GOCCP was re-organized along regional lines to make the entire grant process more effective. The GOCCP has regional monitors assigned to each of the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland to leverage available resources by identifying synergies and eliminating duplication of efforts.

Grant Funds Awarded

In March of each year, a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is placed on the GOCCP website to inform local law enforcement agencies that grant applications for the Program are being accepted. Local law enforcement agencies include county and municipal police departments and sheriff's departments (in the counties where a sheriff's department is the primary local law enforcement agency), and some barracks of the Department of State Police. The agencies which apply for grants are required to describe the specific problem associated with vehicles passing stopped school buses in their jurisdiction, and their proposed enforcement plan of operation. The program is administered on a State Fiscal Year cycle and applications are submitted to the GOCCP on or before May 31st each year. After the applications are received, a grant review is conducted to select the grant recipients and determine each agency's grant award. This year grant review participants included representatives from local law enforcement

agencies, the Maryland State Pupil Transportation Board, and the Maryland State Department of Education.

During the grant review, each agency's specific problem(s), goal(s) and plan(s) to conduct enforcement efforts is considered. The number of schools in the service area, school population and the number of personnel assigned to each applicant law enforcement agency are factors that also are considered. After reviewing each application, the grant reviewers make recommendations to the Executive Director of the GOCCP regarding grant awards. The Executive Director then awards grant funds to the agencies, usually based on the findings and recommendations of the grant review. In FY 2012, there was an overwhelming interest in the Program. As a result, the grant awards may have been less than originally requested.

Exhibit A "Grant Recipients/Enforcement" lists the agencies which received funding, by county, during FY 2012. A total of \$551,910.13 in funds was distributed among 46 state and local law enforcement agencies.

Funds were allocated to law enforcement agencies in 22 Maryland counties. During the Fiscal Year, some agencies de-obligated their funds because of manpower constraints which had prevented them from either fully or partially participating in the program. The de-obligated funds were then redistributed to agencies which demonstrated a need for additional funds.

Funding was provided to law enforcement agencies for officers to enforce, on an overtime basis, existing State laws regarding failure to stop for a stopped school bus. The format for the enforcement was determined by each agency. Some methods of enforcement included: officers following school vehicles, in either marked or unmarked patrol cars, to stop violators; and, officers riding on school vehicles, then communicating with patrol vehicles by radio when infractions were observed.

Funding was also provided to law enforcement agencies to promote enforcement efforts utilizing media resources to promote enforcement along with education of Maryland residents regarding school bus driving laws. Nine law enforcement agencies participated in the Public Information Campaign. The mission of this campaign was to educate and inform Maryland residents of the school bus safety laws and assure them that aggressive steps were being taken by local law enforcement to increase and ensure the safety of Maryland's students.

Effect of the Program

The goal of the School Bus Safety Enforcement Program is to reduce serious injuries and fatalities caused by motorists who fail to stop and/or remain stopped for school buses. For the calendar years 2009 through 2011, the Maryland State Police Central Records Division and the Maryland State Department of Education reported the following statistics regarding personal injury accidents and fatalities, which occurred as a result of the failure to stop and/or remain stopped for school buses.

Calendar Year	Number of Fatal Accidents ¹	Number of Personal Injury Accidents ²	School Bus Miles Traveled ³	School Vehicles ⁴	Students ⁵
2009	3	14	123,274,416	7,200	618,742
2010	1	24	120,997,273	7,194	617,116
2011	1	13	123,363,711	7,146	614,350

The School Bus Safety Enforcement Program has been effective in establishing partnerships between the law enforcement community and school safety advocacy groups. Additionally, the program has been successful in fostering a spirit of increased awareness and safety between the education community and the general public. Based on quarterly progress reports and performance measures received in FY 2012, it appears that the number of school bus related citations have increased by 28.8%. This increase could only be contributed to intensified enforcement efforts conducted to safeguard Maryland's school-aged children.

It is difficult to determine the effectiveness of this program based on data alone. In order to discern the effectiveness of program activities, GOCCP's regional monitors utilize different tools to track activities throughout the Fiscal Year. Monitoring tools include reviewing quarterly programmatic and financial reports; regular communication with sub-recipients to ensure their compliance with general and special conditions of the grant; desk audits to address barriers and expenditures; and site visits to view the strategies set in place to enforce school bus safety laws.

Agencies receiving grants report to the GOCCP the number of citations issued during each quarter. They also report citations issued as a result of other motor vehicle law violations observed by officers. Exceeding the posted speed limit, failing to use seat belts, improper use of child safety seats, and aggressive driving are some of the violations commonly observed by officers while they were conducting enforcement under this program.

The GOCCP was able to obtain Fiscal Year 2012 statewide total number of traffic citations issued from District Court. However, this figure does not include the number of warnings issued or letters sent by law enforcement agencies to motorists who violated the law regarding passing a stopped school bus (**Exhibit B, "Statewide Citation Totals"**).

As reported in previous reports from DSP, the GOCCP cannot estimate how many vehicles might have illegally passed a school vehicle if a marked police vehicle had not been following a school bus. The GOCCP also cannot estimate how many violations occurred in areas not being patrolled by police vehicles. This number is compared to the number of citations written as a direct result of this enforcement program.

As a result of enforcement taken under this program, there was a slight decrease in the number of school bus citations issued, according to figures provided by the District Court of

¹ Source - Maryland Automated Accident Reporting Systems database – School Bus Law- Accidents by Contributing Circumstances.

² Source - Maryland State Department of Education – Pupil Transportation (Data is for Fiscal Year)

³ Source - Maryland State Department of Education – Pupil Transportation (Data is for Fiscal Year)

⁴ Source - Maryland State Department of Education – Pupil Transportation (Data is for Fiscal Year)

⁵ Source - Maryland State Department of Education – Pupil Transportation (Data is for Fiscal Year)

Maryland (**Exhibit B, “Statewide Citation Totals”**). GOCCP's annual summary of the SBSE sub-recipient quarterly performance measures details enforcement activities by grantees (**see Exhibit C, “Enforcement Summary”**). Please note that the difference in total school bus citations in Exhibits B and C is due to the fact that statistics displayed in Exhibit C are self-reported numbers from SBSE sub-recipients using grant funds.

Audits

The Audit Department of the GOCCP randomly conducts audits on all awarded grants. The purpose of these audits is to ensure that the work performed and reported activity under the School Bus Safety Enforcement Program is consistent with the program goals, and that documentation submitted supported reimbursement and is properly retained as stated in the general conditions of the grant. No audits were conducted by the Regional Field Auditor in FY 2012.

Status of the School Bus Safety Enforcement Fund

All of the funds used by law enforcement agencies were spent on overtime enforcement activities and public information campaigns. These funds were not used to supplant regular patrol activities. Although some agencies were able to issue more warnings or citations than others, this does not necessarily imply ineffectiveness on the part of some agencies.

The presence of a police vehicle can cause motorists to decrease their speed, drive more cautiously, and obey all traffic laws. As a result, no violations were observed. This demonstrates the effectiveness of this program in deterring violations and aggressive driving around school vehicles through an increased police presence.

Consistent with allowances in the statute, the GOCCP has designated an employee to administer this program. During FY 2012, a total of \$33,308.77 was spent for the salary for this position and another \$2,101.40 was spent for other administrative expenses for the School Bus Safety Enforcement Program.

On September 30, 2008 the School Bus Safety Enforcement Fund was transferred from Maryland State Police to the Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention in the amount of \$1,602,556.98, which consisted of the FY 2008 balance of \$1,002,556.98 and the FY 2009 appropriation of \$600,000. During FY 2009 the fund balance accrued \$34,082.68 in interest; however, \$900,000 of the fund balance was reverted by the Board of Public Works to the General Fund. The School Bus Safety Enforcement Fund started with a fund balance of \$231,626 as of June 30, 2011. Local law enforcement agencies expended \$551,910.13 in addition to administrative costs of \$35,410.17 resulting in a fund balance of \$244,305.53 as of June 30, 2012.

In July 2012, the GOCCP awarded grants for FY 2013 to 49 Maryland law enforcement agencies in 22 Maryland counties. It is expected that public awareness of this program will continue during FY 2013, and that participating law enforcement agencies will be successful in enforcing Maryland’s laws regarding failing to stop and/or remain stopped for school buses.

Exhibit A - FY12 Grant Recipients/Enforcement

Recipient	Amount Awarded	Grant Expenditures	Citations		Warnings
			SB	Other	
Allegany County					
SBSE-2012-1339 - Allegany County Sheriff's Office	\$9,661.50	\$9,661.50	12	60	1
SBSE-2012-1349 - Maryland State Police	\$8,500.00	\$6,741.66	6	30	10
SBSE-2012-1422 - Cumberland Police Department	\$9,706.26	\$5,262.06	0	23	0
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$7,179.11			
Anne Arundel County					
SBSE-2012-1433 - Annapolis City Police Department	\$10,000.00	\$7,487.84	47	5	0
SBSE-2012-1530 - Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters	\$21,358.19	\$21,358.19	79	40	98
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$6,395.01			
Baltimore City					
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$14,132.24			
Baltimore County					
SBSE-2012-1421 - Baltimore County Police Department	\$29,963.00	\$22,850.36	154	166	9
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$1,288.01			
Calvert County					
SBSE-2012-1313 - Maryland State Police	\$15,261.92	\$12,183.95	4	44	4
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$2,475.09			
Caroline County					
SBSE-2012-1301 - Caroline County Sheriff's Office	\$6,766.93	\$4,792.17	4	0	4
Carroll County					
SBSE-2012-1410 - Maryland State Police	\$7,920.12	\$3,276.66	5	157	4
SBSE-2012-1428 - Westminster Police Department	\$4,969.40	\$4,969.40	9	17	0
SBSE-2012-1429 - Manchester Police Department	\$3,675.00	\$3,675.00	4	0	9
SBSE-2012-1441 - Carroll County Sheriff's Office	\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00	22	212	2
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$5,138.60			

Exhibit A - FY12 Grant Recipients/Enforcement

Recipient	Amount Awarded	Grant Expenditures	Citations		Warnings
			SB	Other	
Cecil County					
SBSE-2012-1211 - Maryland State Police	\$9,847.51	\$6,503.03	8	2	1
SBSE-2012-1354 - Cecil County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Facility	\$15,000.00	\$13,939.20	10	0	0
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$6,693.47			
Charles County					
SBSE-2012-1414 - Maryland State Police	\$15,823.92	\$12,909.39	3	21	2
SBSE-2012-1531 - Charles County Sheriff's Office	\$11,176.05	\$8,541.87	38	72	1090
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$4,947.90			
Dorchester County					
SBSE-2012-1403 - Dorchester County Sheriff's Office	\$19,877.77	\$14,190.83	22	1395	22
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$2,755.23			
Frederick County					
SBSE-2012-1350 - Maryland State Police	\$4,967.27	\$3,405.44	0	5	5
SBSE-2012-1532 - Frederick City Police Department	\$15,000.00	\$13,056.62	24	239	0
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$6,704.50			
Garrett County					
SBSE-2012-1316 - Maryland State Police	\$8,753.33	\$7,319.25	0	8	0
SBSE-2012-1358 - Garrett County Sheriff's Office	\$19,999.80	\$19,999.80	10	123	0
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$3,304.24			
Harford County					
SBSE-2012-1305 - Maryland State Police	\$13,741.58	\$6,885.88	1	88	0
SBSE-2012-1425 - Harford County Sheriff's Office	\$10,000.00	\$6,888.56	5	119	2
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$5,333.57			
Howard County					
SBSE-2012-1423 - Howard County Police Department	\$21,309.00	\$21,309.00	50	90	0
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$4,050.23			

Exhibit A - FY12 Grant Recipients/Enforcement

Recipient	Amount Awarded	Grant Expenditures	Citations		Warnings
			SB	Other	
Kent County					
SBSE-2012-1439 - Kent County Sheriff's Office	\$14,507.30	\$10,987.57	5	22	4
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$5,216.15			
Prince George's County					
SBSE-2012-1043 - University Park Police Department	\$5,000.00	\$4,074.80	4	111	73
SBSE-2012-1259 - City of New Carrollton	\$4,000.00	\$3,400.00	3	58	1
SBSE-2012-1338 - Prince George's County Police Department	\$21,500.00	\$17,709.38	49	68	0
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$10,680.66			
Queen Anne's County					
SBSE-2012-1341 - Town of Centreville	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	0	50	0
SBSE-2012-1351 - Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office	\$6,000.00	\$3,151.88	3	32	1
SBSE-2012-1408 - Maryland State Police	\$10,615.08	\$8,707.30	1	40	0
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$6,907.02			
Somerset County					
SBSE-2012-1307 - Maryland State Police	\$9,873.02	\$4,987.22	1	91	1
SBSE-2012-1320 - Princess Anne Police Department	\$5,830.30	\$5,830.30	1	123	0
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$7,203.14			
St. Mary's County					
SBSE-2012-1413 - Maryland State Police	\$7,988.55	\$7,843.38	1	26	5
SBSE-2012-1424 - St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office	\$19,425.33	\$9,266.70	61	35	12
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$4,329.50			
Talbot County					
SBSE-2012-1249 - Maryland State Police	\$10,000.00	\$5,336.04	2	138	7
SBSE-2012-1534 - Talbot County Sheriff's Office	\$14,325.00	\$10,204.00	2	160	4
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$5,507.45			
Washington County					

Exhibit A - FY12 Grant Recipients/Enforcement

Recipient	Amount Awarded	Grant Expenditures	Citations		Warnings
			SB	Other	
SBSE-2012-1318 - Maryland State Police	\$13,883.51	\$9,483.98	2	78	19
SBSE-2012-1353 - Hancock Police Department	\$239.00	\$239.00	0	0	0
SBSE-2012-1440 - Washington County Sheriff's Office	\$12,761.40	\$8,719.04	229	608	99
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$7,960.16			
Wicomico County					
SBSE-2012-1309 - Maryland State Police	\$12,165.55	\$7,952.91	14	80	2
SBSE-2012-1420 - Wicomico County Sheriff's Office	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	4	106	0
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$7,021.96			
Worcester County					
SBSE-2012-1352 - Town of Berlin	\$3,000.00	\$1,401.68	0	743	0
SBSE-2012-1407 - Maryland State Police	\$6,000.00	\$1,885.90	0	45	0
SBSE-2012-1427 - Pocomoke City Police Department	\$2,000.00	\$1,435.00	0	51	0
SBSE-2012-1436 - Ocean City Police Department	\$17,245.47	\$12,726.47	22	53	142
2011 grants paid out in FY2012		\$10,558.23			
Total	\$520,976.56	\$529,111.95	909	5574	1632

Exhibit B
School Bus Enforcement Citations Statewide Totals
Provided by the District Court of Maryland

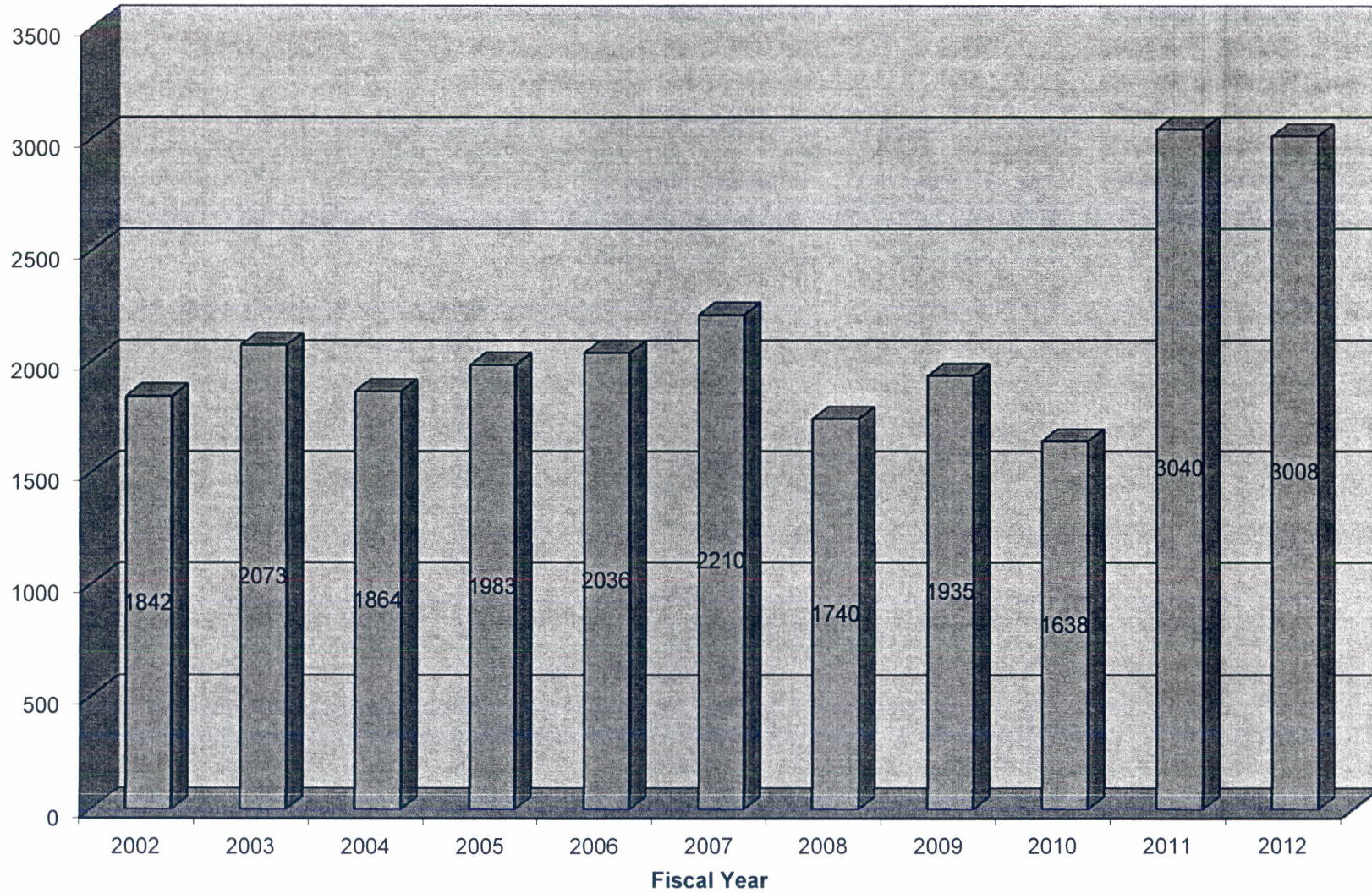


Exhibit C - SBSE Grant Funds Enforcement Summary FY12
Self-Reported by SBSE Sub-Recipients

	School Bus Citations	School Bus Warnings	Warning Letters	Complaints	Other Citations	Overtime Hours	Arrests	Speeding Citations	Stop Sign Citations	Seat Belt Citations	SERO	DUI Citations
Allegany County Sheriff's Office	12	1	0	1	13	228	10	26	0	21	0	0
Annapolis City Police Department	47	0	2	12	4	218	1	0	1	0	0	0
Anne Arundel County Police Department	79	98	521	1,150	40	406	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baltimore County Police Department	154	9	32	43	133	414	0	8	0	25	8	0
Caroline County Sheriff's Office	4	4	0	0	0	148	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carroll County Sheriff's Office	22	2	0	2	152	462	9	52	8	0	0	0
Cecil County Sheriff's Office Law Enforc	10	9	0	31	0	424	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charles County Sheriff's Office	42	2	30	38	22	275	2	7	0	1	4	2
City of New Carrollton	3	1	0	1	38	68	0	5	11	4	11	0
Cumberland Police Department	0	0	0	0	4	196	1	9	5	5	1	0
Dorchester County Sheriff's Office	22	22	0	48	959	763	1,090	313	13	42	36	68
Frederick City Police Department	24	0	57	132	56	365	4	7	131	45	13	0
Garrett County Sheriff's Office	10	0	0	20	17	445	5	63	4	35	37	4
Hancock Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harford County Sheriff's Office	5	2	34	61	28	146	1	69	2	20	18	0
Howard County Police Department	50	0	2	3	33	288	7	39	1	17	0	0
Kent County Sheriff's Office	5	4	0	9	8	381	5	13	1	0	0	0
Manchester Police Department	4	9	2	4	0	105	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maryland State Police	54	82	127	322	300	3,277	9	310	48	178	100	8
Ocean City Police Department	22	142	0	0	26	540	10	5	9	13	8	0
Pocomoke City Police Department	0	0	0	0	8	71	3	20	5	18	8	0
Prince George's County Police Departmer	49	0	38	54	54	340	3	14	0	0	15	0
Princess Anne Police Department	1	0	0	1	28	158	0	2	2	91	2	0
Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office	3	1	11	14	17	139	1	13	2	0	8	0
St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office	61	12	7	25	19	359	0	5	1	10	0	0
Talbot County Sheriff's Office	2	4	3	3	69	420	3	64	3	24	6	0
Town of Berlin	0	0	0	3	338	73	148	315	11	20	24	59
Town of Centreville	0	0	0	0	21	254	4	21	4	4	19	0
University Park Police Department	4	73	0	0	44	108	0	64	1	2	7	0
Washington County Sheriff's Office	229	99	112	171	68	169	38	187	167	1	36	185
Westminster Police Department	9	0	0	10	6	138	1	5	0	6	0	0
Wicomico County Sheriff's Office	4	0	0	5	58	89	5	28	7	13	1	0
TOTAL:	931	576	978	2,163	2,563	11,473	1,360	1,664	437	595	362	326