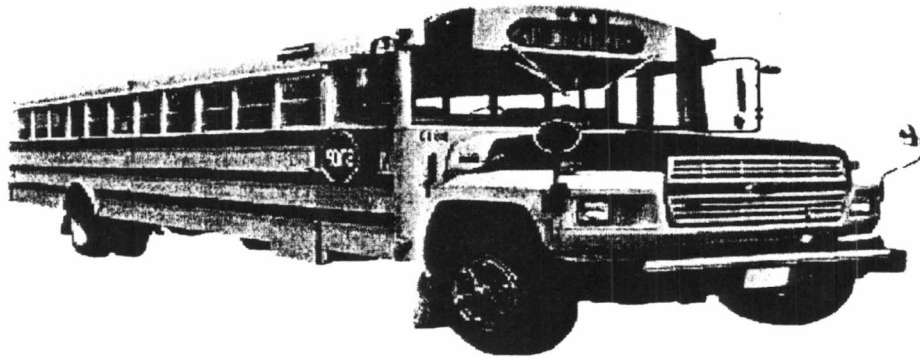




**School Bus Safety Enforcement Fund
Annual Report
August 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013**



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Governor*

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MSAR# 6922

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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 Department of the Maryland State Police (MSP) 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 late winter/early spring 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 SBSE 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 three-tier grant review to include internal staff and external independent reviewer 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, coordination with other agencies, requirement to meet with Pupil Transportation Board, past experience and the number of personnel assigned to each applicant law enforcement agency are factors that also are considered. After reviewing each application, grant reviewers make recommendation to the funding manager. The funding manager makes certain that the technical requirements of applications are met and that proposals adhere to state program funding requirements. The funding manager also reviews each application. An evaluation summary document consolidating the findings of all reviews is presented to the Executive Director. The Executive Director takes all information into consideration and makes final decisions regarding awards.

In FY 2013, there was an overwhelming interest in the SBSE Program, as indicated below:

- In FY 2012, 46 applications were received requesting \$748,686
- In FY 2013, 49 applications were received requesting \$797,141
- In FY 2014, 53 applications were received requesting \$887,103

As indicated from FY 2012 to FY 2014 there was a 16% increase in funding dollars requested and a 13% increase in the number of requests. 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 2013. A total of \$698,395 in funds was distributed among 49 state and local law enforcement agencies using both 2012 and 2013 SBSE funds.

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 partially participating in the program. The de-obligated funds were then redistributed to agencies which demonstrated a need for additional funds. Exhibit A includes all redistributed funds and therefore shows final award amounts and grant expenditures.

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; officers riding on school vehicles, then communicating with patrol vehicles by radio when infractions were observed; and officers stationed on school campuses during pick up and drop off.

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. Eleven 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 2010 through 2012, 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
2010	1	24	120,997,273	7,194	617,116
2011	1	13	123,363,711	7,146	614,350
2012	1	23	123,911,455	7,203	612,286

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.

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. Based on quarterly progress reports and performance measures received from SBSE grant recipients in FY 2013, **(Exhibit C, "Enforcement Summary")** the number of school bus related citations have increased by 1% from FY 2012. While minimal, this increase could only be contributed to intensified enforcement efforts conducted to safeguard Maryland's school-aged children.

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 as it is difficult to determine the effectiveness of this program based on data alone. The presence of a police vehicle can cause motorists to decrease their speed, drive more cautiously, and obey all traffic laws, resulting in reduced/no violations and demonstrating the effectiveness of this program in deterring violations and aggressive driving around school vehicles through increased police

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)

presence. Additionally, 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.

The GOCCP obtained Fiscal Year 2013 statewide school bus enforcement 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"**). 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, and exhibit B is Statewide totals from District Court that includes all law enforcement agencies not just those receiving SBSE funds.

Audits

The Audit Department of the GOCCP randomly selects grants for audit. 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 supports reimbursement and is properly retained as stated in the general conditions of the grant. There was one SBSE grant audited by the Regional Field Auditor in FY 2013. The audit disclosed no instances of non-compliance.

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.

Consistent with allowances in the statute, the GOCCP has designated an employee to administer this program. During FY 2013, a total of \$42,488.87 was spent for the salary for this position as well as the pro-rated salary of regional monitors when working on SBSE (reviewing quarterly programmatic reports, conducting site visits, monitoring the administrative and operational aspects of the program, ensuring compliance with state policies and regulations). A total of \$4,378.42 was spent for indirect administrative costs, such as, rent, telephone, postage, and travel. During FY 2013 local law enforcement agencies expended \$501,358.37 in addition to administrative costs of \$46,867.29. As of June 30, 2013, the SBSE non-lapsing fund balance is \$296,079.87.

FY 2014

In FY 2014, the GOCCP awarded grants for FY 2014 to 53 Maryland law enforcement agencies in 22 Maryland counties. It is expected that public awareness of this program will continue during FY 2014, 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
Grant Recipients/Enforcement

Recipient	Amount Awarded	Grant Expenditures	Citations		SB Warnings
			SB	Other	
Allegany County					
SBSE-2013-1139 - Allegany County Sheriff's Office	\$6,681.00	\$4,541.00	4	76	1
SBSE-2013-1588 - Cumberland Police Department	\$8,000.00	\$3,589.15	0	213	0
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$6,199.79				
Anne Arundel County					
SBSE-2013-1533 - Annapolis City Police Department	\$10,000.00	\$7,084.85	43	1	0
SBSE-2013-1630 - Anne Arundel County Police Department Headquarters	\$18,000.00	\$13,353.44	62	0	97
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$2,512.16				
Baltimore County					
SBSE-2013-1311 - MD State Police, Barrack F - North East	\$8,881.04	\$6,661.07			
SBSE-2013-1349 - MD State Police, Barrack I - Easton	\$6,343.88	\$3,709.50			
SBSE-2013-1405 - MD State Police, Barrack D - Bel Air	\$9,116.20	\$6,640.20			
SBSE-2013-1407 - MD State Police, Barrack X - Princess Anne	\$7,000.00	\$3,523.86			
SBSE-2013-1409 - MD State Police, Barrack E - Salisbury	\$12,500.00	\$5,331.50			
SBSE-2013-1413 - MD State Police, Barrack U - Prince Frederick	\$16,000.00	\$10,949.73			
SBSE-2013-1416 - MD State Police, Barrack W - Mc Henry	\$8,945.24	\$7,103.88			
SBSE-2013-1418 - MD State Police, Barrack O - Hagerstown	\$12,487.94	\$8,727.36			
SBSE-2013-1449 - MD State Police, Barrack C - Cumberland	\$12,500.00	\$4,412.05			
SBSE-2013-1450 - MD State Police, Barrack B - Frederick	\$4,968.64	\$3,178.37			
SBSE-2013-1507 - MD State Police, Barrack V - Berlin	\$3,000.00	\$1,474.35			
SBSE-2013-1508 - MD State Police, Barrack S - Centreville	\$13,821.06	\$4,244.32			
SBSE-2013-1510 - MD State Police, Barrack G - Westminster	\$6,000.00	\$4,360.26			
SBSE-2013-1513 - MD State Police, Barrack T - Leonardtown	\$12,000.00	\$6,336.82			
SBSE-2013-1514 - MD State Police, Barrack H - La Plata	\$20,200.00	\$7,965.11			
MD State Police Cumulative Values			36	281	22
SBSE-2013-1521 - Baltimore County Police Department	\$30,000.00	\$27,990.28	125	126	22
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$5,584.91				
Calvert County					

Exhibit A
Grant Recipients/Enforcement

SBSE-2013-1005 - Calvert County Sheriff's Office	\$7,491.19	\$5,235.62	0	90	1
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$3,077.97				
Caroline County					
SBSE-2013-1401 - Caroline County Sheriff's Office	\$4,604.00	\$2,603.35	1	0	0
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$1,974.76				
Carroll County					
SBSE-2013-1041 - Carroll County Sheriff's Office	\$19,500.00	\$15,732.00	16	67	3
SBSE-2013-1528 - Westminster Police Department	\$6,000.00	\$5,991.68	14	18	1
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$4,643.46				
Cecil County					
SBSE-2013-1454 - Cecil County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Facility	\$15,000.00	\$4,123.90			
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$4,405.28				
Charles County					
SBSE-2013-1631 - Charles County Sheriff's Office	\$11,936.24	\$9,434.60	51	6	18
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$5,548.71				
Dorchester County					
SBSE-2013-1503 - Dorchester County Sheriff's Office	\$24,000.00	\$15,273.08	15	477	13
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$5,686.94				
Frederick County					
SBSE-2013-1632 - Frederick City Police Department	\$27,300.00	\$18,000.00	21	249	0
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$3,505.21				
Garrett County					
SBSE-2013-1458 - Garrett County Sheriff's Office	\$18,000.00	\$13,297.50	10	74	0
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$1,434.08				

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Grant Recipients/Enforcement

Harford County					
SBSE-2013-1525 - Harford County Sheriff's Office	\$20,000.00	\$13,260.17	27	3	4
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$9,967.14				
Howard County					
SBSE-2013-1523 - Howard County Police Department	\$25,000.00	\$21,601.52	29	71	0
Kent County					
SBSE-2013-1539 - Kent County Sheriff's Office	\$14,891.59	\$11,848.59	2	15	0
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$3,519.73				
Prince George's County					
SBSE-2013-1001 - Bladensburg Police Department	\$2,895.89	\$2,618.24	3	37	3
SBSE-2013-1359 - City of New Carrollton	\$4,000.00	\$2,800.00	6	13	1
SBSE-2013-1438 - Prince George's County Police Department	\$19,500.00	\$15,016.10	44	62	0
SBSE-2013-1443 - University Park Police Department	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	0	60	0
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$3,823.14				
Queen Anne's County					
SBSE-2013-1441 - Town of Centreville	\$12,033.76	\$7,843.39	0	30	0
SBSE-2013-1451 - Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	0	2	0
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$4,755.90				
Somerset County					
SBSE-2013-1002 - Somerset County Sheriff's Office	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	1	0	0
SBSE-2013-1003 - Crisfield Police Department	\$16,000.00	\$6,000.00	NR	1	1
SBSE-2013-1420 - Princess Anne Police Department	\$17,000.00	\$6,287.82	2	89	0
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$4,885.80				
St. Mary's County					
SBSE-2013-1524 - St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office	\$10,846.93	\$6,516.88	62	6	33
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$10,303.80				

Exhibit A
Grant Recipients/Enforcement

Talbot County					
SBSE-2013-1634 - Talbot County Sheriff's Office	\$14,000.00	\$7,253.00	0	83	0
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$8,784.96				
Washington County					
SBSE-2013-1540 - Washington County Sheriff's Office	\$11,000.00	\$5,971.76	34	26	13
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$8,441.89				
Wicomico County					
SBSE-2013-1004 - Fruitland Police Department	\$1,987.00	\$303.61	1	9	0
SBSE-2013-1520 - Wicomico County, Maryland	\$14,934.48	\$10,736.18	0	55	0
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$4,212.64				
Worcester County					
SBSE-2013-1452 - Town of Berlin	\$1,970.04	\$1,180.89	0	0	0
SBSE-2013-1527 - Pocomoke City Police Department	\$1,995.00	\$840.00	0	24	0
SBSE-2013-1536 - Ocean City Police Department	\$18,000.00	\$10,688.00	47	96	143
2012 grants paid out in FY13	\$10,796.42				
Total	\$698,395.81	\$379,634.98	656	2360	376

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

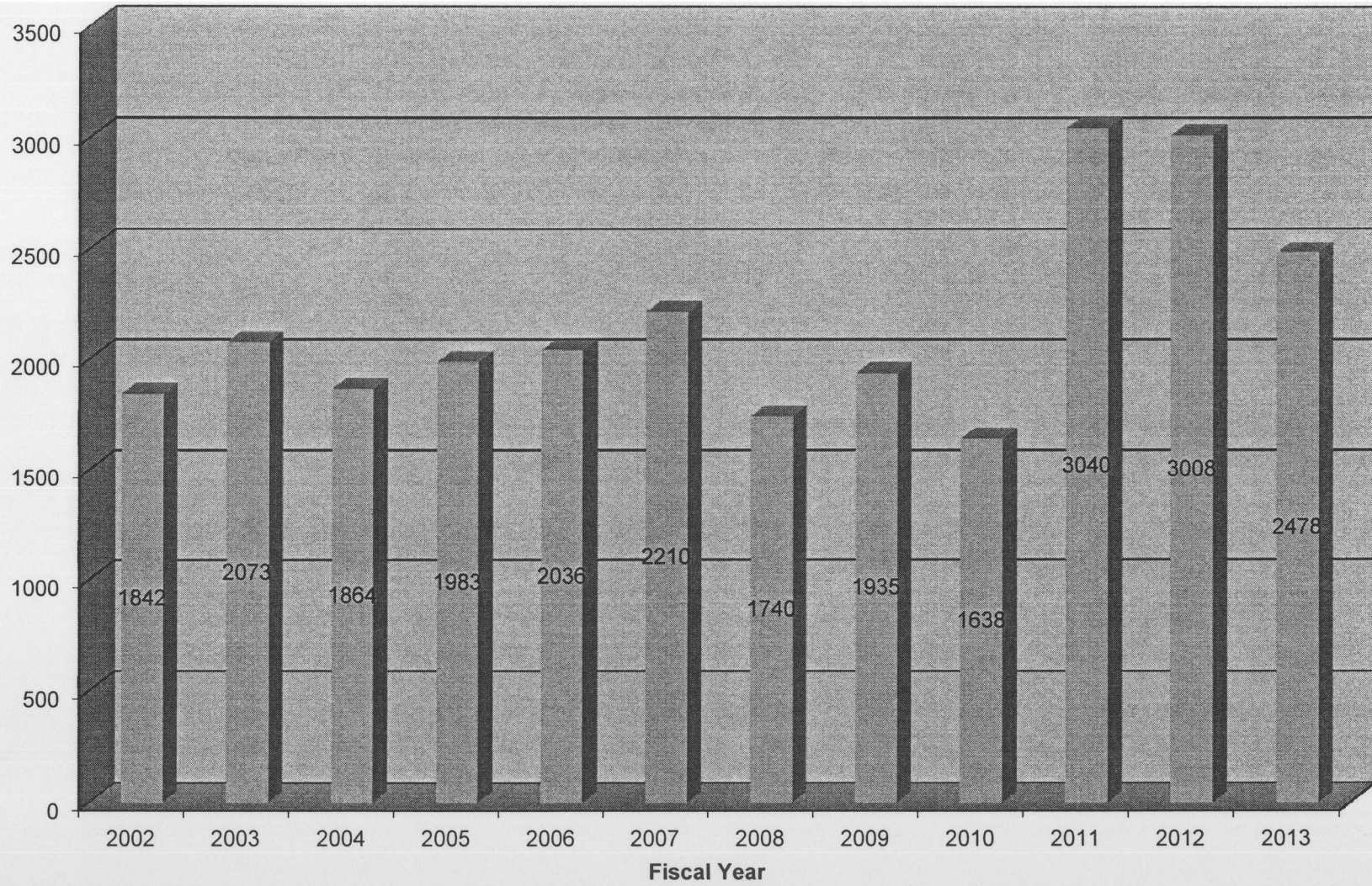


Exhibit C

Applicant Agency	School	School	Warning Letters	Complaints	Other Citations	Overtime Hours	Arrests	Speeding Citations	Stop Sign Citations	Seat Belt Citations	SERO	DUI
	Bus Citations	Bus Warnings										Citations
Allegany County Sheriff's Office	4	1	0	0	5	150	1	33	0	43	5	0
Annapolis City Police Department	43	0	0	8	8	201	6	0	0	0	0	1
Anne Arundel County, Maryland	62	97	409	1165	64	312	3	0	0	0	0	0
Baltimore County, Maryland	125	22	21	24	133	437	2	70	1	55	10	0
Bladensburg Police Department	3	3	0	3	66	87	1	25	10	2	22	0
Calvert County Government	0	1	13	25	34	149	3	23	9	55	3	3
Caroline County Sheriff's Office	1	0	0	2	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carroll County Sheriff's Office	16	3	0	6	315	473	20	59	6	2	0	0
Charles County Board of Cty. Comm.	51	18	12	22	7	248	0	4	1	1	0	0
City of New Carrollton	6	1	0	0	24	80	1	3	4	6	9	0
City of Westminster	14	1	0	16	5	171	0	7	0	11	2	0
Crisfield Police Department	0	1	0	4	0	404	2	1	0	0	0	0
Cumberland Police Department	0	0	0	0	180	128	3	95	17	70	1	31
Dorchester County Council	15	13	0	100	910	746	288	327	8	48	147	94
Frederick City Police Department	21	0	12	50	70	586	8	3	186	57	10	3
Fruitland Police Department	1	0	0	0	0	54	0	3	1	5	0	0
Garrett County Sheriff's Office	10	0	0	20	42	397	7	18	6	50	42	0
Harford County Sheriff's Office	27	4	25	56	36	347	0	3	0	0	9	0
Howard County, Maryland	29	0	9	10	59	360	8	34	2	35	6	0
Kent County Board of Cty. Comm.	2	0	0	2	9	406	5	13	1	1	0	0
Maryland State Police	36	22	72	240	208	2038	5	150	17	114	81	0
Ocean City Police Department	47	143	0	0	102	543	9	23	2	69	45	2
Pocomoke City Police Department	0	0	0	0	9	57	4	9	0	6	8	9
Prince George's County, Maryland	44	0	0	0	40	320	1	53	0	9	17	0
Princess Anne Police Department	2	0	0	2	81	226	8	7	4	75	8	3
Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office	0	0	1	2	3	74	0	1	1	0	0	0
Somerset County Sheriff's Office	1	0	0	1	0	130	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office	62	33	17	59	11	171	0	4	0	2	1	0
Talbot County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0	0	95	926	0	281	4	79	8	0
Town of Berlin	0	0	0	6	0	46	0	0	0	0	0	0
Town of Centreville	0	0	0	0	55	329	2	15	8	7	15	0
University Park Police Department	0	0	0	0	17	96	1	60	0	0	0	0
Washington County Board of Comm.	34	13	0	95	7	140	0	12	0	14	0	0
Wicomico County, Maryland	0	0	0	5	89	177	48	45	2	8	2	0
TOTAL:	656	376	591	1,923	2,684	11,109	436	1,381	290	824	451	146