

**A Report to the Maryland General Assembly
Regarding
Reduction of Outstanding Arrest Warrants
(HB 1259, Chapter 683, Acts 2000)**

Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration

September 2024

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 (MDOT) Motor Vehicle Administration (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 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 METERS 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 has decreased, with many jurisdictions not reporting in many years. 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 MDOT MVA, and the number of warrants that are satisfied are all increasing, while relative relationships between those numbers remain fairly consistent for at least the last decade. The program’s effectiveness, however, is likely impacted by the decrease in reporting jurisdictions and the increase in “false positives”.

Year-to-date, the 2024 overall “false positive” rate is 54% (174 out of 325). That means, of the 325 customers for whom the MDOT MVA had to contact law enforcement to confirm a warrant, 174 of those customers’ warrants had already been satisfied, but the warrants weren’t cleared from the MDOT 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 30% and 24% of total false positives, respectively. It is important to keep in mind that the MDOT MVA does not receive data from law enforcement relating to customer interaction during traffic stops or other citizen/law enforcement interactions.

October 2004 through August 5, 2024†

*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.

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Notices	335,565	329,183	323,779	314,198	303,826	272,569	259,283	244,423	229,001	209,206
Suspended	194,886	190,987	187,619	182,404	177,371	158,809	150,067	140,828	129,666	120,690
Suspended as % of Notices	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	57%	58%
Satisfied/Mistaken/Removed	200,794	198,565	196,772	191,751	183,685	167,294	158,946	150,549	141,538	128,451
S/M/R as % of Notices	60%	60%	61%	61%	60%	61%	61%	62%	62%	61%
Satisfied	176,701	174,472	172,630	167,659	159,595	145,351	138,936	130,551	121,546	108,460
Satisfied as % of Suspended	91%	91%	92%	92%	90%	92%	93%	93%	94%	90%

Transactions Denied 09/06/2004 – 11/05/2021		Transactions Denied 06/13/2024 – 09/03/2024*	
Registrations Denied	Driver's Licenses Denied	Registrations Denied	Driver's Licenses Denied
18,289	4,802	183	329

* In June 2024, MVA began implementation of a new capability within our modernized IT system Customer Connect, to log attempted transactions that are denied due to Outstanding Arrest Warrants (OAW) indicators (flags). Logging for vehicle transactions was fully implemented June 13, 2024, and logging for in-branch driver transactions was implemented on June 14, 2024, and full logging, including kiosk and myMVA web transactions, was implemented on July 31, 2024. For consistency, we have counted 1 transaction per day, per customer.