

Outstanding Arrest Warrants Reduction

(HB 1259/Ch. 683(3), 2000)

The Maryland Department of Transportation
Motor Vehicle Administration

Reduction of Outstanding Arrest Warrants (HB 1259, Chapter 683, Acts 2000)

This annual report was prepared in response to language contained in House Bill (HB) 1259, (Chapter (CH) 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 [Vehicle Laws - Licenses and Registration - Outstanding Arrest Warrants] Act regarding individuals named in outstanding arrest warrants, shall report to the General Assembly pursuant to § 2-1246 [now § 2-1257] 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 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 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 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 2025 overall “false positive” rate is 57% (159 out of 279). That means, of the 279 customers for whom the MVA had to contact law enforcement to confirm a warrant, 159 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 34% and 15% of total false positives, respectively. It is important to keep in mind that the MVA does not receive data from law enforcement relating to customer interaction during traffic stops or other citizen/law enforcement interactions.

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As of July 22, 2005, there were 9,223 customers whose driving privilege is suspended because of an outstanding arrest warrant. The breakdown by law enforcement agency is viewable below. A review of those suspended drivers revealed that 1,180 are deceased or about 13% of the total number. The MVA is working with our data processors to remove the deceased customers from the list of active suspensions and should have that matter resolved by the next reporting date.

Agency Code	Count
AA CO SHERIFF'S	2,010
MONTGOMERY CO. P.D.	1,478
PRINCE GEO CO	1,308
BALTIMORE CO P.D.	1,279
HARFORD CO. SHERIFF	669
HOWARD COUNTY P.D.	444
BALT CITY P D	385
CHARLES CO. SHERIFF'S	234
WASH CO SHERIFF'S OFF	208
HOWARD CO. SHERRIFF	136
ROCKVILLE	135
BALTIMORE CO SHERIFF	100
MD NATURAL RESOURCE	97
ROCKVILLE CITY P.D.	96
FREDERICK P.D.	67
MSP SALISBURY	67
MSP GLEN BURNIE .	66
MSP EASTON BARRACK	59
MSP PRINCE FREDERICK	58
MSP GOLDEN RING	51
MSP LA PLATA	45
MD ST POLICE BARRACK D BELAIR	44
MSP JFK HIGHWAY	35
MSP FREDERICK COUNTY	34
MSP CENTREVILLE	25
DORCHESTER SHERRIFFS	18
BALT CITY SHERIFF	14
MONTGOMERY CO SHERRIF	10
MSP NORTH EAST	10
MSP LEONARDTOWN	6
MSP WASHINGTON COUNTY	6
QUEEN ANNE'S CO. SHERIFFS OFFICE	6
EASTON POLICE DEPT	4
MSP CUMBERLAND	4
MSP MCHENRY	4
MSP WESTMINSTER	3
MD ST POLICE BERLIN BARRACK	2
MSP WATERLOO	2
CAROLINE CO. SHERIFF'S	1
FRED CNTY SHERIFF	1
MSP ANNAPOLIS	1
MSP COLLEGE PARK	1
BWI TRAN AUTH POLICE	0
CARROLL CNTY SHERIFF	0
M.T.A POLICE B/CNTY	0
MSP FORESTVILLE	0
MSP SOMERSET CO.	0
RISING SUN P.D.	0
Total	9,223

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Outstanding Arrest Warrant Statistical Totals

October 2004 through August 31, 2025†

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	472	0
Baltimore Co. Police Department	12/4/2001	31,929	27,266	7	23,398	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	5,024	3,354	9	1,424	0
Dorchester Co. Sheriff's Office	3/24/2005	825	454	3	408	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	27,653	17,037	4	11,840	167
Howard Co. Police Department	8/19/2004	13,058	7,129	5	6,053	0
Howard Co. Sheriff's Office	10/28/2002	2,981	2,089	7	1,535	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	79,120	26,374	19,033	34,082	4,077
Queen Anne's Co. Sheriff's Office **	11/23/2005	161	98	0	67	0
Rockville City Police Department	5/1/2002	3,906	2,493	3	2,231	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	11,043	6,106	1	5,201	5
MD Natural Resources Police	10/1/2011	2,587	1,412	0	816	0
MD Transportation Auth./BW1**	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	146	57	0	94	0
MSP: Barrack D – Bel Air	7/6/2009	1,020	614	2	476	0
MSP: Barrack E – Salisbury	3/25/2003	1,114	846	0	244	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	821	522	4	346	0
MSP: Barrack I – Easton	7/6/2009	3,405	1,977	0	1,199	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	945	627	0	362	0
MSP: Barrack N – Rockville	7/6/2009	4,644	2,516	0	1,718	0
MSP: Barrack O – Hagerstown**	3/24/2003	316	179	0	59	0
MSP: Barrack P – Glen Burnie	7/16/2002	2,311	1,675	6	1,484	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	328	1
MSP: Barrack S – Centreville**	7/6/2009	1,137	852	10	575	0
MSP: Barrack T – Leonardtown	3/25/2003	86	48	0	38	9
MSP: Barrack U – Prince Frederick	7/6/2009	2,267	1,270	0	1,161	0
MSP: Barrack V – Berlin**	7/6/2009	146	94	2	81	0
MSP: Barrack W – Mc Henry	3/26/2003	370	178	0	136	0
MSP: Barrack X – Princess Anne**	7/6/2009	41	15	0	26	0
TOTALS		341,026	198,069	19,811	178,772	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.

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Notices	341,026	335,565	329,183	323,779	314,198	303,826	272,569	259,283	244,423	229,001
Suspended	198,069	194,886	190,987	187,619	182,404	177,371	158,809	150,067	140,828	129,666
Suspended as % of Notices	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	57%
Satisfied/Mistaken/Removed	202,865	200,794	198,565	196,772	191,751	183,685	167,294	158,946	150,549	141,538
S/M/R as % of Notices	59%	60%	60%	61%	61%	60%	61%	61%	62%	62%
Satisfied	178,772	176,701	174,472	172,630	167,659	159,595	145,351	138,936	130,551	121,546
Satisfied as % of Suspended	90%	91%	91%	92%	92%	90%	92%	93%	93%	94%

Transactions Denied 09/06/2004 – 11/05/2021		Transactions Denied 06/13/2024 – 06/30/2025*	
Registrations Denied	Driver's Licenses Denied	Registrations Denied	Driver's Licenses Denied
18,289	4,802	718	1,851

* In June 2024, the MVA began implementation of a new capability to log attempted transactions that are denied due to 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. Full logging, including kiosk and MyMVA web transactions, was implemented on July 31, 2024. Since customers can make multiple attempts at a vehicle or license transaction on the same day, we have summarized the counts to one transaction per day, per customer.