

2020

Asset Forfeiture Report

(Covers Jan. 1, 2019, thru Dec. 31, 2019)



Grants and Community Services Division
Byrne JAG Unit

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....2

SCOPE OF THE REPORT3

REPORTING AGENCIES3

NUMBER OF PROCEEDINGS4

INVENTORY OF PROPERTY RECEIVED4

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY FORFEITED.....5

NET TOTAL PROCEEDS11

EXPENDITURES OF ASSET FORFEITURE FUNDS.....11

DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS13

NUISANCE AND OMNIBUS DISTRIBUTIONS.....13



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE
LANSING

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June 30, 2020

Ms. Margaret O'Brien
Secretary of the Senate
Michigan Senate
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Mr. Gary Randall
Clerk of the House
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Ms. O'Brien and Mr. Randall:

I am pleased to present to the Michigan Legislature the 27th annual Asset Forfeiture Report. Michigan's asset forfeiture laws provide for the seizure of cash and property assets of drug traffickers and other criminal organizations when that property is obtained through illegal activity. The report this year is submitted under the Uniform Forfeiture Reporting Act, PA 148 of 2015, and the conviction requirements of PA 7 and PA 9 of 2019.

PA 148 added reporting requirements and submission of a summary to the Michigan Department of State Police of the reporting agency's activities regarding forfeiture of property under four sections of law: Public Health Code, MCL 333.7521-MCL 333.7533 (Controlled Substances); the Identity Theft Protection Act, MCL 445.79d; Revised Judicature Act of 1961, MCL 600.4701-600.4709 (Omnibus); and Revised Judicature Act of 1961, MCL 600.3801-600.3840 (Public Nuisance). Additionally, the type of information to be reported for each seizure and forfeiture of property was expanded to provide for greater transparency regarding the government seizure of private property.

Effective August 7, 2019, a criminal conviction became required before certain property seized under the Public Health Code can be forfeited to law enforcement.

This report covers the period from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019. This is the third report in which all reporting agencies submitted forfeiture data based upon the calendar year. Over \$12 million in cash and assets amassed by drug traffickers was forfeited. Asset forfeiture funds were utilized to support law enforcement by providing resources for equipment, personnel, vehicles, training, and supplies. Assets seized pursuant to this program also allowed some agencies to contribute monies to non-profit organizations that assist in obtaining information from citizens for solving crimes.

I submit this report for your information and review.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR

FOREWARD

This is the 27th annual Asset Forfeiture Report; it is the first of its kind written under both the Uniform Forfeiture Reporting Act and Public Act (PA) 7 and PA 9 of 2019. PA 148 of 2015 created the Uniform Forfeiture Reporting Act and repealed prior forfeiture reporting requirements under the Public Health Code. It also mandated forfeiture reporting requirements under four sections of law: Public Health Code, MCL 333.7521 - MCL 333.7533 (Controlled Substances); the Identity Theft Protection Act, MCL 445.79d; Revised Judicature Act of 1961, MCL 600.4701-600.4709 (Omnibus); and Revised Judicature Act of 1961, MCL 600.3801-600.3840 (Public Nuisance).

Effective August 7, 2019, Michigan law requires a criminal conviction before some property seized under the Public Health Code can be forfeited to law enforcement. The 2020 Asset Forfeiture Report includes forfeitures under PA 148 of 2015 as well as PA 7 and PA 9 of 2019.

This report is a compilation of online submissions by Michigan law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, as well as counties, townships, cities, and villages to the Michigan State Police (MSP), Grants and Community Services Division (GCSD), Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Unit. This year, as required by the Act, 5,574 individual forfeited property records were submitted to the MSP. The content of the records submitted is summarized for brevity in this report.

Of the 1,896 Reporting Agencies' Government Asset Forfeiture Reports submitted to the MSP, 218 law enforcement agencies reported receiving funds from asset forfeiture during this reporting period. More than \$8.9 million in cash was seized and over \$12 million in cash and property was awarded to law enforcement during this reporting period.

An additional 365 units of government filed reports for the first time this year; however, 18 police agencies that reported forfeitures last year filed null reports this year. Therefore, 1,042 fewer property records were submitted, \$4.6 million less was seized, and \$3 million less in cash and property was awarded to law enforcement.

SCOPE OF THE REPORT

The Uniform Forfeiture Reporting Act defines “reporting agency” to mean one of the following: *(i) If property is seized by or forfeited to a local unit of government, that local unit of government means a village, city, township, or county. (ii) If property is seized by or forfeited to the State of Michigan, the state department or agency effectuating the seizure or forfeiture is the reporting agency. “Local unit of government” means a village, city, township, or county.* Asset forfeiture reporting submissions were solicited from every unit of government in the state of Michigan.

Section I: Identification

The following tables provide information regarding the types of agencies that were requested to submit an asset forfeiture report and the responses received as a result of that request:

Agencies	Agencies Submitting a Report Including Asset Forfeitures	Agencies Submitting a Report with NO Asset Forfeitures	Agencies that DID NOT Submit a Report
Local Police Agencies (477)	149	328	0
Multijurisdictional Task Forces (29)	27	2	0
MSP (1)	1	0	0
Sheriff’s Offices (83)	32	51	0
Prosecuting Attorneys (83)	8	75	0
Total	217	456	0

Added Reporting Agencies	Agencies Submitting a Report	Agencies Submitting a Report with NO Asset Forfeitures
Counties	5	5
Townships	1040	1040
Cities	35	35
Villages	134	134
Departments of State Government	6	6
Total	1,220	1,220

Note: Many local units of government maintain their own police agency or contract for police services. Therefore, the police agency executes and reports asset forfeitures on behalf of the unit of government. In some instances, the unit of government filed a null report for the police agency this year.

Section A: Number of Forfeiture and Public Nuisance Proceedings
MCL 28.112(1)(a) – (f)

Proceedings	Forfeiture and Public Nuisance Proceedings
953*	A1. Forfeiture proceedings instituted in circuit court
720	A2. Forfeiture proceedings concluded in circuit court
286	A3. Forfeiture proceedings pending in circuit court
3,602	A4. Forfeitures effectuated without a forfeiture proceeding in circuit court
1,650	A5. Forfeiture proceedings concluded by agreement
713	A6. Public nuisance proceedings

Note: Forfeiture proceedings instituted in circuit court may be resolved by agreement and therefore not counted as concluded or pending in circuit court.

Section B: Inventory of Property Received by the Reporting Agency
MCL 28.112(1)(g)

This table includes all items seized, or seized and forfeited, during the reporting period.

Units	Inventory of Property Received
2	B1. Residential Real Property: Number of residential real property units received
2	B2. Industrial or Commercial Real Property: Number of units received
0	B3. Agricultural Real Property: Number of units received
\$8,958,929.87	B4. Money: Dollar amount of all money received
14	B5. Negotiable Instruments and Securities: Number of units seized
557	B6. Weapons: Number of weapons received
1,975	B7. Motor Vehicles and Other Conveyances: Number of units received
890	B8. Other Personal Property of Value: Number of other items of value seized

Section C: Description of Property Forfeited
MCL 28.112(1)(h)

Each property inventoried in Section B that has been finalized for purposes of appeal is further described in the tables that follow. Requirements C1-C4 are on file in the MSP database; however, they represent over 6,600 unique entries which are not conducive to summarization.

- C1. Case number or other number assigned by the reporting agency that identifies the forfeiture.
- C2. Description of the property (e.g., residential real property address; legal description of agricultural property; vehicle identification number; make, model, and serial number of a firearm).
- C3. Date the property was seized.
- C4. Date the property was ordered forfeited or disposed of.
- C5. Final disposition of property.
- C6. Estimated value of the property.

Items	Disposition of Property Received	Value of Property Received
341	Destroyed	\$172,261
24	Donated	\$106,990
2,747	Retained by agency	\$4,580,814
279	Sale pending	\$554,181
2,081	Sold	\$1,401,479
95	Dispositions not answered	\$228,080

Note: Some reporting agencies' inventory reports were incomplete and were returned to those reporting agencies for correction. Corrected inventory reports have not been returned and are not included in the table above. However, net proceeds of those agencies are included in Section D below.

- C7. The violation or nuisance alleged to have been committed for which forfeiture is authorized.

Asset Forfeitures by Section of Law

Section of Law	Number of Forfeitures
Public Health Code, MCL 333.7521 – 333.7533 (Controlled Substances)	4,696
Identity Theft Protection Act, MCL 445.79d (Identity Theft)	11
Revised Judicature Act of 1961, MCL 600.3801 – 600.38340 (Public Nuisance)	732
Revised Judicature Act of 1961, MCL 600.4701 – 600.4709 (Omnibus)	111
No Answer/Not Identified	23

Asset Forfeitures by Specific Violations

Instances	Specific Violation of Public Health Code
16	333.74012A1, Controlled substance - Delivery/manufacture - Narcotic or cocaine 1000 or more grams
21	333.74012A2, Controlled substance - Delivery/manufacture - Narcotic or cocaine 450 to 999 grams
112	333.74012A3, Controlled substance - Delivery/manufacture - Narcotic or cocaine 50 to 449 grams
1,254	333.74012A4, Controlled substance - Delivery/manufacture - Narcotic or cocaine less than 50 grams
449	333.74012B1, Controlled substance - Delivery/manufacture - Methamphetamine/ecstasy
158	333.74012B-A, Controlled substance - Delivery/manufacture - Schedules 1,2, and 3 except marihuana and cocaine
12	333.74012B-B, Controlled substance - Delivery/manufacture - Substance added to Schedules 1,2, and 3 by Board of Pharmacy rule
34	333.74012C-A, Controlled substance - Delivery/manufacture - Schedule 4
5	333.74012D, Controlled substance - Delivery/manufacture - Schedule 5
41	333.74012D1, Controlled substance - Delivery/manufacture 45 kilograms of marihuana or 200 or more plants
48	333.74012D11, Controlled substance - Delivery/manufacture 5 to 45 kilograms of marihuana or 20 to 200 plants
257	333.74012D3, Controlled substance - Delivery/manufacture marihuana
6	333.74012F, Prescription forms - Manufacture/deliver
5	333.7401B3A, Controlled substance - Delivery/manufacture - GBL
9	333.7401B3B, Controlled substance - Possession of GBL
15	333.7401C2A, Controlled substance - Operating/maintaining a laboratory
2	333.7401C2B, Controlled substance - Operating a laboratory in presence of minor
11	333.7401C2D, Controlled substance - Operating a laboratory near specified places
8	333.7401C2F, Controlled substance - Operating a laboratory involving methamphetamine
5	333.74022A, Controlled substance - Creation/delivery counterfeit substance - Narcotic/methamphetamine/ecstasy
13	333.74022B –Controlled substance – Creation/delivery of counterfeit substance – Schedule 1,2, or 3
1	333.74022C –Controlled substance – Creation/delivery of counterfeit substance – Schedule 4
31	333.74022E, Controlled substance - Creation/delivery of an analogue

Instances	Specific Violation of Public Health Code (Cont'd.)
4	333.74032A1, Controlled substance - Possession of cocaine, heroin, or another narcotic - 1000 or more grams
17	333.74032A2, Controlled substance - Possession of cocaine, heroin, or another narcotic - 450 to 999 grams
33	333.74032A3, Controlled substance - Possession of cocaine, heroin, or another narcotic - 50 to 449 grams
49	333.74032A4, Controlled substance - Possession of cocaine, heroin, or another narcotic - 25 to 49 grams
1,105	333.74032A5, Controlled substance - Possession of cocaine, heroin, or another narcotic - Less than 25 grams
214	333.74032B1, Controlled substance - Possession of methamphetamine/ecstasy
194	333.74032B-A, Controlled substance - Possession of analogues
32	333.74032B-B, Controlled substance - Possession of substance added to Schedules 1, 2, 3, or 4 by Board of Pharmacy rule
8	333.74032C-A, Controlled substance - Possession of Schedule 5 or LSD, peyote, mescaline, psilocybin, etc.
2	333.74032C-B, Controlled substance - Possession of substance added to Schedule 5 by Board of Pharmacy rule
100	333.74032D, Controlled substance - Possession of marihuana
5	333.74032F, Prescription forms - Possession
6	333.7403A, Controlled substance - Fraudulently obtaining
17	333.74042A, Controlled substance - Use of narcotic/cocaine/methamphetamine/ecstasy
73	333.74042B, Controlled substance - Use
8	333.74042D, Controlled substance - Use of marihuana
1	333.7405A, Controlled substances - Licensee prescription violations
37	333.7405D, Controlled substance - Maintaining a drug house
1	333.7407A1-A, Controlled substance - Attempt - Felony
16	333.7407A1-C, Controlled substance - Attempt - Misdemeanor
1	333.7407A-B, Controlled substance - Attempt - High misdemeanor
1	333.74103, Controlled substance - Possession with intent to deliver on school property - Narcotic or cocaine - Less than 50 grams
2	333.74104-A, Controlled substance - Possession on school property - Narcotic or cocaine - Less than 25 grams

Instances	Specific Violation of Public Health Code (Cont'd.)
1	333.74104D, Controlled substance - Possession on school property - Marihuana
1	333.74106, Controlled substance - Manufacture of methamphetamine on school or library property
2	333.7417, Controlled substance - Selling falsely represented products
3	333.7453, Controlled substance - Sale of paraphernalia
5	333-74101A, Controlled substance - Delivery to minor - Narcotic or cocaine - less than 50 grams
248	Unspecified/left blank violations under the Public Health Code

Instances	Specific Identity Theft Violations
7	445.65, Identity Theft
1	445.65A, Identity Theft - Second offense
2	445.67, Personal identifying information - Obtain/possess/transfer with intent to commit identity theft
1	445.67B, Personal identifying information - Obtain/possess/transfer with intent to commit identity theft - Third offense
0	Unspecified/unanswered violations of Identity Theft Protection Act, MCL 445.79d

Instances	Specific Nuisance Violations
34	Property was used by or kept for the use of prostitutes or other disorderly persons
3	Property was used for conduct prohibited by MCL 750.462a to MCL 750.462h - Human trafficking
679	Property was used for the purpose of lewdness, assignation, prostitution, or gambling
4	Property was used for the unlawful manufacture, transporting, sale, keeping for sale, bartering, or furnishing of a controlled substance
9	Property was used to facilitate armed violence in connection with the unlawful use of a firearm or other dangerous weapon

Instances	Specific Violations of Omnibus Act
1	750.110A3, Home invasion - Second degree
56	750.145C2, Child sexually abusive activity
1	750.157Q, Financial transaction device - Illegal sale/use
6	750.157R, Financial transaction device - Forgery, alteration, or counterfeiting

Instances	Specific Violations of Omnibus Act (Cont'd.)
1	750.1744A, Embezzlement - Agent or trustee \$1,000.00 or more but less than \$20,000.00
1	750.174A5A, Embezzlement - From a vulnerable adult - \$20,000.00 or more
2	750.2241A, Weapons - Dangerous weapon - Miscellaneous
1	750.224A, Weapons - Taser - Possession or sale of
8	750.224F, Weapons - Firearms - Possession by felon
1	750.249, Uttering and publishing
1	750.253, Uttering and publishing counterfeit bills or notes
2	750.271, Fraud - Issue/sell domestic securities
2	750.274, Fraud - Purchasing/collecting on fraudulent financial document
1	750.3563A, Larceny - \$1,000.00 or more but less than \$20,000.00
5	750.360, Larceny in a building
14	750.3563A, Larceny - \$1,000.00 or more but less than \$20,000.00
2	750.5352A, Stolen property - Receiving and concealing - \$20,000.00 or more
14	750.5353A, Stolen property - Receiving and concealing - \$1,000.00 or more but less than \$20,000.00
6	750.5353B, Stolen property - Receiving and concealing - \$200.00 or more but less than \$1,000.00 - Second or subsequent offense
5	Unspecified/unanswered violations classified as Omnibus Act

Instances	Other Entries
23	Entries with no violation entered for the reported seizure

C8. Whether any person was charged with the violation for which the forfeiture was authorized. If yes, whether that person was convicted, not convicted, or the charge is still pending.

Number	Charge and Conviction Data
272	Cooperated/assisted law enforcement to avoid criminal charges*
513	Not charged with a violation for which forfeitures were authorized
2,074	Charged with a violation - Charges still pending
2,357	Charged and convicted for violation for which forfeiture was authorized

Number	Charge and Conviction Data (Cont.)
261	Charged but not convicted for violation for which forfeiture was authorized
299	Charged but conviction status not answered in survey
279	Neither charge nor conviction status answered in survey

*Many persons accused of crimes cooperated with authorities, resulting in criminal charges not being pursued. This category was added to the 2018 and future reports for tracking.

C9. Whether any person claimed an interest in the property and the number of claimants to the property.

Number	Number of Persons Claiming an Interest in the Property
4,042	0 persons claimed an interest in the property
1,379	1 person claimed an interest in the property
17	2 or 3 persons claimed an interest in the property
11	5 or more persons claimed an interest in the property
100	Not answered

C10. Whether the forfeiture resulted from an adoptive seizure.

Number	Did the Forfeiture Result from an Adoptive Seizure
304	Yes
5,194	No
51	Not answered

C11. Whether the property was seized pursuant to a search warrant, arrest warrant, or search incident to arrest.

Number	Search Warrant, Arrest Warrant, or Search Incident to Arrest
2,121	Search warrant
61	Arrest warrant
2,250	Search incident to arrest
1,087	No warrant
31	Not answered

C12. Whether a controlled substance was found in the course of the investigation that resulted in the forfeiture of the property.

Number	Controlled Substance Found in the Course of the Investigation
4,608	Yes
954	No

Section D: Net Total Proceeds
MCL 28.112(1)(i)

Report the net total proceeds of all property forfeited through actions instituted by the reporting agency that the reporting agency is required to account for and report to the state treasurer.

Amount	Net Total Proceeds
\$12,082,743	Net total proceeds reported to MSP for January 1, 2019, thru December 31, 2019

Note: This report includes only the net proceeds of property that was seized on or after the effective date of the act and forfeited during the reporting period.

Section E: Expenditures of Asset Forfeiture Funds under the Public Health Code
MCL 28.112(1)(j)(i)

The reporting agencies were requested to report the use of asset forfeiture funds as a percentage of the agency's total expenditures of asset forfeiture funds in 13 broad categories: personnel, overtime, vehicles, equipment, federal grant match, informant fees, buy money, training, crime prevention and public outreach, animal expenses, supplies and materials, non-profit organizations, and other expenses.

Expenditure of Funds Category and Percentage	
Personnel	5%
Overtime	1.9%
Vehicles	8.5%
Equipment	34%
Federal Grant Match	.4%
Informant Fees	1.5%
Buy Money	8%
Training	8.6%
Crime Prevention/Public Outreach	2.5%
Animal Expenses	3.9%
Supplies and Materials	6.4%
Shared with other Agencies	2.9%
Non-Profit Organizations	.5%
Other	15.9%
TOTAL	100%

The following are examples of reported expenditures by category:

Personnel: Asset forfeiture funds are utilized to fund community policing officers, multijurisdictional drug team personnel, local and county agency drug team personnel, and civilian personnel.

Overtime: Drug investigations are often initiated in the late evening/early morning hours. Certified methamphetamine laboratory responders, raid entry teams, and canine handlers are examples of frequently utilized personnel that require overtime payment.

Vehicles: The increasing cost of vehicles has been a major factor in increased police department operating cost budgets. The use of asset forfeiture funds has offset some of these costs.

Equipment: Law enforcement is seeing rapid changes in technology to assist agencies in working more efficiently and effectively. Records management systems, mobile data terminals, live stream video, and evidence collection enhancements are examples of expenditures from this category.

Federal Grant Match: Grant matching funds help increase the number of investigators and prosecutors dedicated to drug enforcement. Multijurisdictional task forces rely heavily on federal funds to operate and most of these funds require a cash match.

Informant Fees: Asset forfeiture funds are utilized for informant fees to assist in solving complex drug investigations.

Buy Money: Assembling cases against drug traffickers require resources for undercover agents to conduct drug purchases, often over a period of time. Enforcement budgets may be inadequate for this expenditure. Asset forfeiture funds fill this gap and provide needed resources, especially for smaller law enforcement agencies.

Training: The majority of sworn personnel assigned to multijurisdictional task forces require formal narcotics investigative training. Law enforcement agencies are providing more training for personnel to keep current with new technological advances. Asset forfeiture funds can assist agencies with these costs.

Crime Prevention and Public Outreach: Law enforcement agencies are providing education and awareness programs throughout the state. These efforts may include presentations to schools and community groups.

Animal Expenses: Canines have proven to be a valuable asset to law enforcement. Law enforcement agencies and one multijurisdictional task force reported spending asset forfeiture funds on medical and maintenance costs for their canine programs.

Supplies and Materials: Supplies and materials are considered operational items that cost under \$5,000, including computers, copier leases, cellular telephones, and vehicle/building maintenance. Materials and supplies utilized by multijurisdictional task force personnel are not normally provided for in a participating agency's budget, so multijurisdictional task forces often use asset forfeiture funds to support their supplies and materials expenditures.

Shared with Other Agency: Some forfeitures result from joint investigations or multijurisdictional task force investigations; therefore, proceeds may be shared among participating agencies.

Non-profit Organizations: Many local police agencies and county sheriffs' offices reported

contributing a percentage of their asset forfeiture funds to local crime alert organizations.

Other: Expenditures reported in this category were utilized for building/utility costs for narcotics unit operations, cellular telephone bills, global positioning tracker services, extradition costs, drug awareness kits, vehicle purchases, off-site storage units for toxic materials, dispatching consortium fees, aviation fees, and evidence collection materials.

F: Donated Grow Lights and Scales

MCL 28.112(1)(j)(ii)

Distribution to Schools

MCL 333.7524(2) allows for the donation of forfeited lights for plant growth or scales to elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education.

Lights and Scales Donated	
18	Number of lights for plant growth
30	Number of scales
2	Number of schools receiving donated equipment
\$1,300	Total cash value of lights and scales

Section G: Distribution of Net Proceeds of Revised Judicature Act (Nuisance) Proceedings

MCL 28.112(1)(k)

Amount	Other Persons Entitled to the Proceeds of Nuisance Proceedings
0%	Percent to victims of human trafficking
100%	Percent to other persons entitled to proceeds
0%	Percent reported paid to state treasurer

Section H: Distribution of Net Proceeds of Revised Judicature Act (Omnibus) Proceedings

MCL 28.112(1)(l)

Amount	Net Proceeds of Revised Judicature Act (Omnibus) Proceedings
\$147,299	Amount used to enhance enforcement of criminal laws
\$6,031	Amount used to implement William Van Regenmorter Crime Victim's Rights Act