

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 268 of 2016
Section 422
Parole Board Decisions Report – April 2017

Section 422: On a quarterly basis, the department shall issue a report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on corrections, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the legislative corrections ombudsman, for the previous 4 quarters detailing the outcomes of prisoners who have been reviewed for parole. The report shall include all of the following:

- a) How many prisoners in each quarter were reviewed.*
- b) How many prisoners were granted parole.*
- c) How many prisoners were denied parole.*
- d) How many parole decisions were deferred.*
- e) The distribution of the total number of prisoners reviewed during that quarter grouped by whether the prisoner had been interviewed for the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, or more than sixth time.*
- f) The number of paroles granted, denied, or deferred for each of the parole guideline scores of low, average, and high.*
- g) The reason for denying or deferring parole.*

The Michigan Parole Board is the only paroling authority for felony offenders committed to the jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Corrections. That Parole Board gains jurisdiction of a case when a prisoner serving a non-life sentence has served his or her minimum sentence, less any good time or disciplinary credits the prisoner may have earned.

The Parole Board is divided into three member panels. The decision whether to grant or deny parole is determined by majority vote of a Parole Board panel. Cases involving a life sentence must be decided by a majority vote of the full Parole Board. If an offender is denied parole, a date is selected for the next Parole Board review.

The data in this report will follow its own respective date ranges to allow for the settling of data into the system and to ensure accurate analysis of the data. Below is how we have chosen to divide each report:

- January report: September – November
- April report: December – February
- July report: March – May
- October report: June – August

Table 1 breaks down the total number of hearings that have been granted parole, denied parole and deferred. It also gives the distribution of the number of hearings grouped by whether the prisoners had been interviewed for the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth or more than sixth time.

Table 1 – Hearing Number by Decision Type

| | | Hearing | | | | | | | Total |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 6th | More Than 6th | |
| Mar '16 - May '16 | Grant | 1,582 | 673 | 231 | 103 | 44 | 21 | 58 | 2,712 |
| | Deny | 344 | 316 | 162 | 95 | 44 | 20 | 77 | 1,058 |
| | Defer | 1,177 | 121 | 66 | 33 | 16 | 12 | 25 | 1,450 |
| | Total | 3,103 | 1,110 | 459 | 231 | 104 | 53 | 160 | 5,220 |
| June '16 - Aug '16 | Grant | 1,847 | 658 | 256 | 86 | 39 | 13 | 45 | 2,944 |
| | Deny | 450 | 293 | 185 | 90 | 50 | 34 | 93 | 1,195 |
| | Defer | 1,069 | 121 | 41 | 31 | 7 | 8 | 26 | 1,303 |
| | Total | 3,366 | 1,072 | 482 | 207 | 96 | 55 | 164 | 5,442 |
| Sept '16 - Nov '16 | Grant | 1,565 | 497 | 198 | 79 | 40 | 23 | 35 | 2,437 |
| | Deny | 400 | 268 | 144 | 81 | 54 | 24 | 80 | 1,051 |
| | Defer | 820 | 90 | 41 | 24 | 10 | 3 | 18 | 1,006 |
| | Total | 2,785 | 855 | 383 | 184 | 104 | 50 | 133 | 4,494 |
| Dec '16 - Feb '17 | Grant | 1,607 | 487 | 183 | 85 | 38 | 15 | 39 | 2,454 |
| | Deny | 393 | 300 | 133 | 75 | 37 | 20 | 74 | 1,032 |
| | Defer | 935 | 72 | 35 | 13 | 13 | 5 | 29 | 1,102 |
| | Total | 2,935 | 859 | 351 | 173 | 88 | 40 | 142 | 4,588 |
| Total | Grant | 6,601 | 2,315 | 868 | 353 | 161 | 72 | 177 | 10,547 |
| | Deny | 1,587 | 1,177 | 624 | 341 | 185 | 98 | 324 | 4,336 |
| | Defer | 4,001 | 404 | 183 | 101 | 46 | 28 | 98 | 4,861 |
| | Total | 12,189 | 3,896 | 1,675 | 795 | 392 | 198 | 599 | 19,744 |

The parole guidelines score is a numerical scoring system designed to assist in applying objective criteria to any decision made by the Parole Board. Information used in the calculation of the parole guideline score includes the prisoner's current offense, the prior criminal record, institutional conduct and program performance, age, mental health status and statistical risk.

Table 2 shows the number of paroles granted, denied or deferred for each of the parole guideline scores of low, middle and high.

Table 2 – Number of Paroles Granted, Denied or Deferred by Parole Guideline Description

| | | Parole Guideline (PG) Description | | | Total |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | Low | Average | High | |
| Mar '16 - May '16 | Grant | 30 | 1,033 | 1,460 | 2,523 |
| | Deny | 212 | 507 | 323 | 1,042 |
| | Defer | 33 | 621 | 778 | 1,432 |
| | Total | 275 | 2,161 | 2,561 | 4,997 |
| June '16 - Aug '16 | Grant | 41 | 1,130 | 1,597 | 2,768 |
| | Deny | 225 | 579 | 377 | 1,181 |
| | Defer | 44 | 605 | 643 | 1,292 |
| | Total | 310 | 2,314 | 2,617 | 5,241 |
| Sept '16 - Nov '16 | Grant | 42 | 916 | 1,341 | 2,299 |
| | Deny | 217 | 527 | 304 | 1,048 |
| | Defer | 24 | 451 | 526 | 1,001 |
| | Total | 283 | 1,894 | 2,171 | 4,348 |
| Dec '16 - Feb '17 | Grant | 37 | 878 | 1,400 | 2,315 |
| | Deny | 182 | 509 | 338 | 1,029 |
| | Defer | 28 | 453 | 550 | 1,031 |
| | Total | 247 | 1,840 | 2,288 | 4,375 |
| Total | Grant | 150 | 3,957 | 5,798 | 9,905 |
| | Deny | 836 | 2,122 | 1,342 | 4,300 |
| | Defer | 129 | 2,130 | 2,497 | 4,756 |
| | Total | 1,115 | 8,209 | 9,637 | 18,961 |
| SAI Grants | | | | | 521 |
| No Parole Guideline Score | | | | | 262 |
| Total | | | | | 19,744 |

Table 3 shows the typical reasons for denying or deferring parole.

Table 3 – Decision Type by Reason

| Reasons for Denying or Deferring | Decision Type | | | | Total | % |
|---|---------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| | Deny | % | Defer | % | | |
| Current Therapy or Psychological Report | 3 | 0.07% | 3,419 | 70.34% | 3,422 | 37.21% |
| Further Discussion | 0 | 0.00% | 539 | 11.09% | 539 | 5.86% |
| Investigation | 0 | 0.00% | 848 | 17.44% | 848 | 9.22% |
| Risk to Community | 4,333 | 99.93% | 0 | 0.00% | 4,333 | 47.11% |
| Satisfactory Placement | 0 | 0.00% | 55 | 1.13% | 55 | 0.60% |
| Total | 4,336 | 100.00% | 4,861 | 100.00% | 9,197 | 100.00% |