

**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**  
**Pursuant to P.A. 268 of 2016**  
**Section 422**  
**Parole Board Decisions Report – January 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 prisoners 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	
Dec '15 - Feb '16	Grant	1,387	671	186	98	31	27	42	2,442
	Deny	284	249	125	62	42	22	75	859
	Defer	870	129	55	26	13	12	37	1,142
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,541</b>	<b>1,049</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>4,443</b>
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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,103</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>5,220</b>
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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,366</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>5,442</b>
Sept '16 - Nov '16	Grant	1,565	496	198	79	40	23	35	2,436
	Deny	400	268	144	81	54	24	80	1,051
	Defer	820	90	41	24	10	3	18	1,006
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,785</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>4,493</b>
Total	Grant	6,381	2,498	871	366	154	84	180	10,534
	Deny	1,478	1,126	616	328	190	100	325	4,163
	Defer	3,936	461	203	114	46	35	106	4,901
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,795</b>	<b>4,085</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>19,598</b>

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	
Dec '15 - Feb '16	Grant	39	862	1,375	2,276
	Deny	133	425	279	837
	Defer	17	526	584	1,127
	<b>Total</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>2,238</b>	<b>4,240</b>
Mar '16 - May '16	Grant	30	1,034	1,460	2,524
	Deny	212	507	323	1,042
	Defer	33	621	778	1,432
	<b>Total</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>2,162</b>	<b>2,561</b>	<b>4,998</b>
June '16 - Aug '16	Grant	41	1,133	1,598	2,772
	Deny	225	579	379	1,183
	Defer	44	605	644	1,293
	<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>2,317</b>	<b>2,621</b>	<b>5,248</b>
Sept '16 - Nov '16	Grant	42	913	1,343	2,298
	Deny	217	521	310	1,048
	Defer	24	451	526	1,001
	<b>Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>1,885</b>	<b>2,179</b>	<b>4,347</b>
Total	Grant	152	3,942	5,776	9,870
	Deny	787	2,032	1,291	4,110
	Defer	118	2,203	2,532	4,853
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>8,177</b>	<b>9,599</b>	<b>18,833</b>
SAI Grants					520
No Parole Guideline Score					245
<b>Total</b>					<b>19,598</b>

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	2	0.05%	3,389	69.15%	3,391	37.41%
Further Demonstration	6	0.14%	0	0.00%	6	0.07%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	603	12.30%	603	6.65%
Investigation	0	0.00%	855	17.45%	855	9.43%
Risk to Community	4,155	99.81%	0	0.00%	4,155	45.84%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	54	1.10%	54	0.60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,163</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>4,901</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>9,064</b>	<b>100.00%</b>