

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

*Section 422: On a quarterly basis, the department shall provide 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	
June '16 - Aug '16	Grant	1,847	658	254	86	39	13	45	2,942
	Deny	450	293	187	90	50	34	93	1,197
	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	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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,785</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>4,494</b>
Dec '16 - Feb '17	Grant	1,607	490	183	85	38	15	40	2,458
	Deny	395	300	133	75	37	20	74	1,034
	Defer	936	72	35	13	13	5	29	1,103
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,938</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>4,595</b>
Mar '17 - May '17	Grant	1,810	555	219	79	46	28	39	2,776
	Deny	403	314	150	115	66	32	80	1,160
	Defer	962	113	51	20	18	8	24	1,196
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,175</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>5,132</b>
Total	Grant	6,829	2,200	854	329	163	79	159	10,613
	Deny	1,648	1,175	614	361	207	110	327	4,442
	Defer	3,787	396	168	88	48	24	97	4,608
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12,264</b>	<b>3,771</b>	<b>1,636</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>19,663</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	
June '16 - Aug '16	Grant	40	1,126	1,597	2,763
	Deny	225	581	377	1,183
	Defer	44	604	644	1,292
	<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>2,311</b>	<b>2,618</b>	<b>5,238</b>
Sept '16 - Nov '16	Grant	42	915	1,340	2,297
	Deny	216	525	305	1,046
	Defer	24	451	525	1,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>4,343</b>
Dec '16 - Feb '17	Grant	37	878	1,404	2,319
	Deny	185	511	336	1,032
	Defer	27	455	553	1,035
	<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>1,844</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>4,386</b>
Mar '17 - May '17	Grant	45	1,071	1,481	2,597
	Deny	230	586	343	1,159
	Defer	38	567	526	1,131
	<b>Total</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>2,224</b>	<b>2,350</b>	<b>4,887</b>
Total	Grant	164	3,990	5,822	9,976
	Deny	856	2,203	1,361	4,420
	Defer	133	2,077	2,248	4,458
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>8,270</b>	<b>9,431</b>	<b>18,854</b>
SAI Grants					534
No Parole Guideline Score					275
<b>Total</b>					<b>19,663</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	1	0.02%	3,175	68.90%	3,176	35.09%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	552	11.98%	552	6.10%
Investigation	0	0.00%	824	17.88%	824	9.10%
Lack of Effort	1	0.02%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Regular Parole	1	0.02%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Risk to Community	4,438	99.91%	0	0.00%	4,438	49.04%
Satisfactory Placement	1	0.02%	57	1.24%	58	0.64%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,442</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>4,608</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>9,050</b>	<b>100.00%</b>