

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 107 of 2017
Article V, Section 422
Parole Board Decisions Report – January 2018

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, the legislative corrections ombudsman, and the state budget office, 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	
Dec '16 - Feb '17	Grant	1,607	490	183	85	38	15	40	2,458
	Deny	394	300	133	75	37	20	74	1,033
	Defer	936	72	35	13	13	5	29	1,103
	Total	2,937	862	351	173	88	40	143	4,594
Mar '17 - May '17	Grant	1,810	557	219	81	46	28	39	2,780
	Deny	405	315	151	115	66	32	80	1,164
	Defer	962	113	51	20	18	8	24	1,196
	Total	3,177	985	421	216	130	68	143	5,140
Jun '17 - Aug '17	Grant	1,850	629	228	103	44	22	51	2,927
	Deny	373	273	146	84	46	30	79	1,031
	Defer	886	92	64	26	24	10	33	1,135
	Total	3,109	994	438	213	114	62	163	5,093
Sept '17 - Nov '17	Grant	1,518	452	181	69	32	22	59	2,333
	Deny	368	226	131	73	36	23	53	910
	Defer	816	80	42	24	12	11	23	1,008
	Total	2,702	758	354	166	80	56	135	4,251
Total	Grant	6,785	2,128	811	338	160	87	189	10,498
	Deny	1,540	1,114	561	347	185	105	286	4,138
	Defer	3,600	357	192	83	67	34	109	4,442
	Total	11,925	3,599	1,564	768	412	226	584	19,078

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 '16 - Feb '17	Grant	36	876	1,403	2,315
	Deny	185	510	334	1,029
	Defer	27	453	563	1,043
	Total	248	1,839	2,300	4,387
Mar '17 - May '17	Grant	45	1,070	1,484	2,599
	Deny	233	590	337	1,160
	Defer	38	567	542	1,147
	Total	316	2,227	2,363	4,906
Jun '17 - Aug '17	Grant	52	1,185	1,544	2,781
	Deny	195	519	316	1,030
	Defer	43	503	551	1,097
	Total	290	2,207	2,411	4,908
Sept '17 - Nov '17	Grant	56	907	1,235	2,198
	Deny	185	447	275	907
	Defer	37	470	452	959
	Total	278	1,824	1,962	4,064
Total	Grant	189	4,038	5,666	9,893
	Deny	798	2,066	1,262	4,126
	Defer	145	1,993	2,108	4,246
	Total	1,132	8,097	9,036	18,265
SAI Grants					513
No Parole Guideline Score					300
Total					19,078

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%	2,936	66.10%	2,937	34.23%
Further Demonstration	2	0.05%	0	0.00%	2	0.02%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	614	13.82%	614	7.16%
Investigation	0	0.00%	817	18.39%	817	9.52%
Lack of Effort	1	0.02%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Risk to Community	4,134	99.90%	0	0.00%	4,134	48.18%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	75	1.69%	75	0.87%
Total	4,138	100.00%	4,442	100.00%	8,580	100.00%