

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 107 of 2017
Article V, Section 422
Parole Board Decisions Report – July 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	
Jun '17 - Aug '17	Grant	1,850	631	228	103	44	22	51	2,929
	Deny	373	273	146	84	46	30	79	1,031
	Defer	886	92	64	26	24	10	33	1,135
	Total	3,109	996	438	213	114	62	163	5,095
Sept '17 - Nov '17	Grant	1,518	456	182	69	32	22	60	2,339
	Deny	368	226	131	73	36	23	53	910
	Defer	816	80	42	24	12	11	23	1,008
	Total	2,702	762	355	166	80	56	136	4,257
Dec '17 - Feb '18	Grant	1,670	395	182	75	40	17	35	2,414
	Deny	313	202	120	59	36	30	55	815
	Defer	806	90	30	19	9	5	22	981
	Total	2,789	687	332	153	85	52	112	4,210
Mar '18 - May '18	Grant	1,605	510	218	69	32	23	40	2,497
	Deny	381	272	127	72	55	22	61	990
	Defer	911	111	37	26	13	7	21	1,126
	Total	2,897	893	382	167	100	52	122	4,613
Total	Grant	6,643	1,992	810	316	148	84	186	10,179
	Deny	1,435	973	524	288	173	105	248	3,746
	Defer	3,419	373	173	95	58	33	99	4,250
	Total	11,497	3,338	1,507	699	379	222	533	18,175

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	
Jun '17 - Aug '17	Grant	52	1,179	1,539	2,770
	Deny	194	516	313	1,023
	Defer	42	499	553	1,094
	Total	288	2,194	2,405	4,887
Sept '17 - Nov '17	Grant	56	911	1,239	2,206
	Deny	185	448	273	906
	Defer	37	470	471	978
	Total	278	1,829	1,983	4,090
Dec '17 - Feb '18	Grant	51	909	1,325	2,285
	Deny	173	410	230	813
	Defer	37	442	476	955
	Total	261	1,761	2,031	4,053
Mar '18 - May '18	Grant	79	974	1,299	2,352
	Deny	189	521	279	989
	Defer	48	551	509	1,108
	Total	316	2,046	2,087	4,449
Total	Grant	238	3,973	5,402	9,613
	Deny	741	1,895	1,095	3,731
	Defer	164	1,962	2,009	4,135
	Total	1,143	7,830	8,506	17,479
SAI Grants					465
No Parole Guideline Score					231
Total					18,175

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	0	0.00%	2,954	69.51%	2,954	36.94%
Further Demonstration	4	0.11%	0	0.00%	4	0.05%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	610	14.35%	610	7.63%
Insufficient Information	0	0.00%	1	0.02%	1	0.01%
Investigation	0	0.00%	616	14.49%	616	7.70%
Regular Parole	1	0.03%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Risk to Community	3,740	99.84%	0	0.00%	3,740	46.77%
Satisfactory Placement	1	0.03%	69	1.62%	70	0.88%
Total	3,746	100.00%	4,250	100.00%	7,996	100.00%