

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 166 of 2020
Section 422
Parole Board Decisions Report – October 2021

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, 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 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	
Sept '20 - Nov '20	Grant	1,201	324	116	53	24	9	25	1,752
	Deny	412	207	110	68	48	24	45	914
	Defer	695	62	32	20	12	9	16	846
	Total	2,308	593	258	141	84	42	86	3,512
Dec '20 - Feb '21	Grant	1,094	256	111	47	24	12	20	1,564
	Deny	405	240	103	57	45	31	64	945
	Defer	550	53	25	21	14	13	17	693
	Total	2,049	549	239	125	83	56	101	3,202
Mar '21 - May '21	Grant	930	244	89	36	17	10	19	1,345
	Deny	336	173	66	56	30	15	32	708
	Defer	1,006	50	36	9	15	7	15	1,138
	Total	2,272	467	191	101	62	32	66	3,191
Jun '21 - Aug '21	Grant	913	255	111	28	18	9	19	1,353
	Deny	236	138	70	47	39	26	42	598
	Defer	1,289	50	16	17	5	3	15	1,395
	Total	2,438	443	197	92	62	38	76	3,346
Total	Grant	4,138	1,079	427	164	83	40	83	6,014
	Deny	1,389	758	349	228	162	96	183	3,165
	Defer	3,540	215	109	67	46	32	63	4,072
	Total	9,067	2,052	885	459	291	168	329	13,251

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	
Sept '20 - Nov '20	Grant	37	706	964	1,707
	Deny	178	481	251	910
	Defer	27	437	364	828
	Total	242	1,624	1,579	3,445
Dec '20 - Feb '21	Grant	23	656	841	1,520
	Deny	173	508	253	934
	Defer	40	346	296	682
	Total	236	1,510	1,390	3,136
Mar '21 - May '21	Grant	37	560	697	1,294
	Deny	135	393	179	707
	Defer	41	530	541	1,112
	Total	213	1,483	1,417	3,113
Jun '21 - Aug '21	Grant	23	511	749	1,283
	Deny	122	333	142	597
	Defer	29	699	619	1,347
	Total	174	1,543	1,510	3,227
Total	Grant	120	2,433	3,251	5,804
	Deny	608	1,715	825	3,148
	Defer	137	2,012	1,820	3,969
	Total	865	6,160	5,896	12,921
SAI Grants					157
No Parole Guideline Score					173
Total					13,251

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%	3,013	73.99%	3,013	41.63%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	664	16.31%	664	9.18%
Investigation	0	0.00%	366	8.99%	366	5.06%
Risk to Community	3,165	100.00%	0	0.00%	3,165	43.73%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	29	0.71%	29	0.40%
Total	3,165	100.00%	4,072	100.00%	7,237	100.00%