

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 87 of 2021
Section 422
Parole Board Decisions Report – April 2022

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	
Mar '21 - May '21	Grant	930	244	90	36	17	10	19	1,346
	Deny	336	173	66	56	30	15	32	708
	Defer	1,006	51	36	9	15	7	15	1,139
	Total	2,272	468	192	101	62	32	66	3,193
Jun '21 - Aug '21	Grant	913	257	112	28	18	9	19	1,356
	Deny	236	138	70	47	39	26	42	598
	Defer	1,289	50	16	17	5	3	15	1,395
	Total	2,438	445	198	92	62	38	76	3,349
Sep '21 - Nov '21	Grant	1,048	360	89	36	16	6	9	1,564
	Deny	291	162	94	64	40	23	48	722
	Defer	1,125	83	30	18	17	7	11	1,291
	Total	2,464	605	213	118	73	36	68	3,577
Dec '21 - Feb '22	Grant	867	277	94	27	16	8	18	1,307
	Deny	280	189	96	52	35	37	57	746
	Defer	945	60	26	11	13	6	8	1,069
	Total	2,092	526	216	90	64	51	83	3,122
Total	Grant	3,758	1,138	385	127	67	33	65	5,573
	Deny	1,143	662	326	219	144	101	179	2,774
	Defer	4,365	244	108	55	50	23	49	4,894
	Total	9,266	2,044	819	401	261	157	293	13,241

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	
Mar '21 - May '21	Grant	37	558	697	1,292
	Deny	134	388	178	700
	Defer	41	527	543	1,111
	Total	212	1,473	1,418	3,103
Jun '21 - Aug '21	Grant	23	511	750	1,284
	Deny	122	328	134	584
	Defer	32	700	628	1,360
	Total	177	1,539	1,512	3,228
Sep '21 - Nov '21	Grant	31	682	796	1,509
	Deny	171	414	136	721
	Defer	41	647	573	1,261
	Total	243	1,743	1,505	3,491
Dec '21 - Feb '22	Grant	27	544	696	1,267
	Deny	203	407	136	746
	Defer	32	517	491	1,040
	Total	262	1,468	1,323	3,053
Total	Grant	118	2,295	2,939	5,352
	Deny	630	1,537	584	2,751
	Defer	146	2,391	2,235	4,772
	Total	894	6,223	5,758	12,875
SAI Grants					184
No Parole Guideline Score					182
Total					13,241

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%	3,593	73.42%	3,593	46.86%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	912	18.64%	912	11.89%
Investigation	0	0.00%	361	7.38%	361	4.71%
Risk to Community	2,774	100.00%	0	0.00%	2,774	36.18%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	28	0.57%	28	0.37%
Total	2,774	100.00%	4,894	100.00%	7,668	100.00%