

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 87 of 2021
Section 422
Parole Board Decisions Report – July 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	
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	279	94	27	16	8	18	1,309
	Deny	280	189	96	52	35	37	57	746
	Defer	945	60	26	11	13	6	8	1,069
	Total	2,092	528	216	90	64	51	83	3,124
Mar '22 - May '22	Grant	1,118	294	117	37	17	12	11	1,606
	Deny	321	212	102	80	44	31	63	853
	Defer	1,434	87	33	21	11	4	10	1,600
	Total	2,873	593	252	138	72	47	84	4,059
Total	Grant	3,946	1,190	412	128	67	35	57	5,835
	Deny	1,128	701	362	243	158	117	210	2,919
	Defer	4,793	280	105	67	46	20	44	5,355
	Total	9,867	2,171	879	438	271	172	311	14,109

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 '21 - Aug '21	Grant	23	511	750	1,284
	Deny	122	328	133	583
	Defer	32	700	628	1,360
	Total	177	1,539	1,511	3,227
Sep '21 - Nov '21	Grant	31	680	796	1,507
	Deny	170	413	134	717
	Defer	41	646	579	1,266
	Total	242	1,739	1,509	3,490
Dec '21 - Feb '22	Grant	27	546	696	1,269
	Deny	203	410	133	746
	Defer	31	521	490	1,042
	Total	261	1,477	1,319	3,057
Mar '22 - May '22	Grant	24	744	775	1,543
	Deny	203	486	161	850
	Defer	36	806	720	1,562
	Total	263	2,036	1,656	3,955
Total	Grant	105	2,481	3,017	5,603
	Deny	698	1,637	561	2,896
	Defer	140	2,673	2,417	5,230
	Total	943	6,791	5,995	13,729
SAI Grants					195
No Parole Guideline Score					185
Total					14,109

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%	3,977	74.27%	3,977	48.07%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	923	17.24%	923	11.16%
Investigation	0	0.00%	426	7.96%	426	5.15%
Risk to Community	2,919	100.00%	0	0.00%	2,919	35.28%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	29	0.54%	29	0.35%
Total	2,919	100.00%	5,355	100.00%	8,274	100.00%