

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 87 of 2021
Section 422
Parole Board Decisions Report – October 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	
Sep '21 - Nov '21	Grant	1,048	360	89	36	16	6	10	1,565
	Deny	291	162	94	64	40	23	48	722
	Defer	1,125	83	30	18	16	7	11	1,290
	Total	2,464	605	213	118	72	36	69	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	1,119	295	119	37	17	12	11	1,610
	Deny	321	212	102	81	44	31	63	854
	Defer	1,434	87	33	21	11	4	10	1,600
	Total	2,874	594	254	139	72	47	84	4,064
Jun '22 - Aug '22	Grant	1,241	267	118	36	16	13	16	1,707
	Deny	278	189	95	56	44	30	59	751
	Defer	1,182	106	33	18	19	10	14	1,382
	Total	2,701	562	246	110	79	53	89	3,840
Total	Grant	4,275	1,201	420	136	65	39	55	6,191
	Deny	1,170	752	387	253	163	121	227	3,073
	Defer	4,686	336	122	68	59	27	43	5,341
	Total	10,131	2,289	929	457	287	187	325	14,605

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	
Sep '21 - Nov '21	Grant	31	680	796	1,507
	Deny	170	413	134	717
	Defer	41	646	578	1,265
	Total	242	1,739	1,508	3,489
Dec '21 - Feb '22	Grant	26	544	696	1,266
	Deny	204	408	131	743
	Defer	31	520	492	1,043
	Total	261	1,472	1,319	3,052
Mar '22 - May '22	Grant	23	744	778	1,545
	Deny	205	492	155	852
	Defer	38	808	730	1,576
	Total	266	2,044	1,663	3,973
Jun '22 - Aug '22	Grant	37	755	854	1,646
	Deny	167	453	130	750
	Defer	46	742	564	1,352
	Total	250	1,950	1,548	3,748
Total	Grant	117	2,723	3,124	5,964
	Deny	746	1,766	550	3,062
	Defer	156	2,716	2,364	5,236
	Total	1,019	7,205	6,038	14,262
SAI Grants					182
No Parole Guideline Score					161
Total					14,605

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	%		
Contract Denied	1	0.03%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Current Therapy or Psychological Report	0	0.00%	3,828	71.67%	3,828	45.50%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	946	17.71%	946	11.24%
Investigation	0	0.00%	538	10.07%	538	6.39%
Risk to Community	3,072	99.97%	0	0.00%	3,072	36.51%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	29	0.54%	29	0.34%
Total	3,073	100.00%	5,341	100.00%	8,414	100.00%