

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 166 of 2022
Section 506
Parole Board Decisions Report – October 2023

***Section 506:** The department shall issue quarterly reports for the previous 4 quarters detailing 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 '22 - Nov '22	Grant	978	234	80	39	12	13	12	1,368
	Deny	250	164	89	63	44	28	52	690
	Defer	884	75	34	18	11	4	19	1,045
	Total	2,112	473	203	120	67	45	83	3,103
Dec '22 - Feb '23	Grant	1,052	264	91	41	17	9	14	1,488
	Deny	243	174	106	49	33	20	68	693
	Defer	848	76	31	19	6	13	11	1,004
	Total	2,143	514	228	109	56	42	93	3,185
Mar '23 - May '23	Grant	1,051	245	99	38	21	7	14	1,475
	Deny	332	243	99	55	41	32	62	864
	Defer	926	71	37	22	9	10	9	1,084
	Total	2,309	559	235	115	71	49	85	3,423
Jun '23 - Aug '23	Grant	1,116	302	106	43	17	7	20	1,611
	Deny	269	178	99	50	37	27	50	710
	Defer	898	66	27	12	12	6	14	1,035
	Total	2,283	546	232	105	66	40	84	3,356
Total	Grant	4,197	1,045	376	161	67	36	60	5,942
	Deny	1,094	759	393	217	155	107	232	2,957
	Defer	3,556	288	129	71	38	33	53	4,168
	Total	8,847	2,092	898	449	260	176	345	13,067

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 '22 - Nov '22	Grant	27	584	710	1,321
	Deny	148	418	112	678
	Defer	32	560	423	1,015
	Total	207	1,562	1,245	3,014
Dec '22 - Feb '23	Grant	17	635	780	1,432
	Deny	170	387	132	689
	Defer	33	569	384	986
	Total	220	1,591	1,296	3,107
Mar '23 - May '23	Grant	24	658	716	1,398
	Deny	185	531	148	864
	Defer	32	614	413	1,059
	Total	241	1,803	1,277	3,321
Jun '23 - Aug '23	Grant	27	697	761	1,485
	Deny	132	415	133	680
	Defer	37	596	361	994
	Total	196	1,708	1,255	3,159
Total	Grant	95	2,574	2,967	5,636
	Deny	635	1,751	525	2,911
	Defer	134	2,339	1,581	4,054
	Total	864	6,664	5,073	12,601
SAI Grants					221
No Parole Guideline Score					245
Total					13,067

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%	2,774	66.55%	2,774	38.93%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	685	16.43%	685	9.61%
Investigation	0	0.00%	665	15.95%	665	9.33%
Risk to Community	2,957	100.00%	0	0.00%	2,957	41.50%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	44	1.06%	44	0.62%
Total	2,957	100.00%	4,168	100.00%	7,125	100.00%