

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 207 of 2018
Article V, Section 422
Parole Board Decisions Report – January 2019

Section 422: On a quarterly basis, the department shall issue a report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on corrections, the senate and house fiscal agencies, 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 prisoner 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	
Dec '17 - Feb '18	Grant	1,670	395	182	75	40	17	35	2,414
	Deny	313	202	120	59	36	30	55	815
	Defer	806	90	30	19	9	5	22	981
	Total	2,789	687	332	153	85	52	112	4,210
Mar '18 - May '18	Grant	1,605	515	218	69	32	23	42	2,504
	Deny	381	273	127	72	55	22	59	989
	Defer	912	111	37	26	13	7	22	1,128
	Total	2,898	899	382	167	100	52	123	4,621
Jun '18 - Aug '18	Grant	1,632	438	181	77	36	22	30	2,416
	Deny	381	296	135	72	46	25	58	1,013
	Defer	854	95	37	31	19	10	31	1,077
	Total	2,867	829	353	180	101	57	119	4,506
Sept '18 - Nov '18	Grant	1,329	356	133	48	36	14	22	1,938
	Deny	362	208	101	53	44	19	39	826
	Defer	837	77	42	32	18	5	16	1,027
	Total	2,528	641	276	133	98	38	77	3,791
Total	Grant	6,236	1,704	714	269	144	76	129	9,272
	Deny	1,437	979	483	256	181	96	211	3,643
	Defer	3,409	373	146	108	59	27	91	4,213
	Total	11,082	3,056	1,343	633	384	199	431	17,128

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	
Dec '17 - Feb '18	Grant	50	908	1,324	2,282
	Deny	173	409	231	813
	Defer	36	441	475	952
	Total	259	1,758	2,030	4,047
Mar '18 - May '18	Grant	79	975	1,305	2,359
	Deny	192	519	278	989
	Defer	49	550	513	1,112
	Total	320	2,044	2,096	4,460
Jun '18 - Aug '18	Grant	62	925	1,297	2,284
	Deny	188	519	304	1,011
	Defer	35	536	487	1,058
	Total	285	1,980	2,088	4,353
Sept '18 - Nov '18	Grant	32	675	1,103	1,810
	Deny	111	416	298	825
	Defer	26	508	465	999
	Total	169	1,599	1,866	3,634
Total	Grant	223	3,483	5,029	8,735
	Deny	664	1,863	1,111	3,638
	Defer	146	2,035	1,940	4,121
	Total	1,033	7,381	8,080	16,494
SAI Grants					465
No Parole Guideline Score					231
Total					17,190

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%	3,175	75.36%	3,175	40.41%
Further Demonstration	7	0.19%	0	0.00%	7	0.09%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	468	11.11%	468	5.96%
Insufficient Information	0	0.00%	1	0.02%	1	0.01%
Investigation	0	0.00%	507	12.03%	507	6.45%
Regular Parole	1	0.03%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Risk to Community	3,634	99.75%	0	0.00%	3,634	46.26%
Satisfactory Placement	1	0.03%	62	1.47%	63	0.80%
Total	3,643	100.00%	4,213	100.00%	7,856	100.00%