

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 166 of 2020
Section 422
Parole Board Decisions Report – January 2021

Section 422: On a quarterly basis, the department shall provide 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 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	
Dec '19 - Feb '20	Grant	1,408	314	103	33	23	21	17	1,919
	Deny	284	151	64	50	30	23	27	629
	Defer	1,273	82	40	18	7	7	15	1,442
	Total	2,965	547	207	101	60	51	59	3,990
Mar '20 - May '20	Grant	1,919	725	260	98	41	21	37	3,101
	Deny	305	312	187	103	63	38	84	1,092
	Defer	1,085	119	82	34	27	19	38	1,404
	Total	3,309	1,156	529	235	131	78	159	5,597
Jun '20 - Aug '20	Grant	1,264	318	152	60	38	17	27	1,876
	Deny	359	237	132	73	48	36	57	942
	Defer	820	77	40	23	8	7	14	989
	Total	2,443	632	324	156	94	60	98	3,807
Sept '20 - Nov '20	Grant	1,201	320	116	53	24	8	24	1,746
	Deny	412	207	110	68	47	24	45	913
	Defer	695	62	32	20	12	9	16	846
	Total	2,308	589	258	141	83	41	85	3,505
Total	Grant	5,792	1,677	631	244	126	67	105	8,642
	Deny	1,360	907	493	294	188	121	213	3,576
	Defer	3,873	340	194	95	54	42	83	4,681
	Total	11,025	2,924	1,318	633	368	230	401	16,899

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 '19 - Feb '20	Grant	29	728	1,059	1,816
	Deny	126	338	164	628
	Defer	47	673	691	1,411
	Total	202	1,739	1,914	3,855
Mar '20 - May '20	Grant	65	1,402	1,528	2,995
	Deny	262	570	257	1,089
	Defer	47	743	588	1,378
	Total	374	2,715	2,373	5,462
Jun '20 - Aug '20	Grant	38	788	988	1,814
	Deny	176	556	209	941
	Defer	38	477	446	961
	Total	252	1,821	1,643	3,716
Sept '20 - Nov '20	Grant	38	705	961	1,704
	Deny	177	478	255	910
	Defer	29	438	354	821
	Total	244	1,621	1,570	3,435
Total	Grant	170	3,623	4,536	8,329
	Deny	741	1,942	885	3,568
	Defer	161	2,331	2,079	4,571
	Total	1,072	7,896	7,500	16,468
SAI Grants					241
No Parole Guideline Score					190
Total					16,899

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	1	0.03%	3,541	75.65%	3,542	42.90%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	532	11.37%	532	6.44%
Investigation	0	0.00%	554	11.84%	554	6.71%
Regular Parole	1	0.03%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Risk to Community	3,574	99.94%	0	0.00%	3,574	43.28%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	54	1.15%	54	0.65%
Total	3,576	100.00%	4,681	100.00%	8,257	100.00%