

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 64 of 2019
Section 422
Parole Board Decisions Report – January 2020

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 '18 - Feb '19	Grant	1,406	375	115	66	27	10	24	2,023
	Deny	343	195	93	58	31	16	45	781
	Defer	921	78	39	16	15	8	19	1,096
	Total	2,670	648	247	140	73	34	88	3,900
Mar '19 - May '19	Grant	1,709	522	188	59	37	23	46	2,584
	Deny	369	257	139	87	50	33	60	995
	Defer	1,224	95	58	37	32	14	28	1,488
	Total	3,302	874	385	183	119	70	134	5,067
Jun '19 - Aug '19	Grant	1,478	441	147	65	35	18	29	2,213
	Deny	311	269	154	73	40	26	47	920
	Defer	1,259	140	64	26	26	7	23	1,545
	Total	3,048	850	365	164	101	51	99	4,678
Sept '19 - Nov '19	Grant	1,468	425	135	55	28	23	35	2,169
	Deny	268	210	103	63	35	29	37	745
	Defer	1,213	98	61	33	26	4	14	1,449
	Total	2,949	733	299	151	89	56	86	4,363
Total	Grant	6,061	1,763	585	245	127	74	134	8,989
	Deny	1,291	931	489	281	156	104	189	3,441
	Defer	4,617	411	222	112	99	33	84	5,578
	Total	11,969	3,105	1,296	638	382	211	407	18,008

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 '18 - Feb '19	Grant	27	777	1,112	1,916
	Deny	177	361	242	780
	Defer	33	516	519	1,068
	Total	237	1,654	1,873	3,764
Mar '19 - May '19	Grant	62	1,051	1,321	2,434
	Deny	213	490	289	992
	Defer	60	715	692	1,467
	Total	335	2,256	2,302	4,893
Jun '19 - Aug '19	Grant	47	849	1,182	2,078
	Deny	172	515	232	919
	Defer	55	774	702	1,531
	Total	274	2,138	2,116	4,528
Sept '19 - Nov '19	Grant	32	778	1,231	2,041
	Deny	180	418	144	742
	Defer	38	687	683	1,408
	Total	250	1,883	2,058	4,191
Total	Grant	168	3,455	4,846	8,469
	Deny	742	1,784	907	3,433
	Defer	186	2,692	2,596	5,474
	Total	1,096	7,931	8,349	17,376
SAI Grants					444
No Parole Guideline Score					188
Total					18,008

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%	4,338	77.77%	4,339	48.11%
Further Demonstration	5	0.15%	0	0.00%	5	0.06%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	660	11.83%	660	7.32%
Investigation	0	0.00%	508	9.11%	508	5.63%
Regular Parole	1	0.03%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Risk to Community	3,434	99.80%	0	0.00%	3,434	38.08%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	72	1.29%	72	0.80%
Total	3,441	100.00%	5,578	100.00%	9,019	100.00%