

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 268 of 2016
Section 422
Parole Board Decisions Report – October 2017

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, and the legislative corrections ombudsman, 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	
Sept '16 - Nov '16	Grant	1,565	497	198	79	40	23	35	2,437
	Deny	400	269	144	81	54	24	80	1,052
	Defer	820	90	41	24	10	3	18	1,006
	Total	2,785	856	383	184	104	50	133	4,495
Dec '16 - Feb '17	Grant	1,608	490	183	85	38	15	40	2,459
	Deny	394	300	133	75	37	20	74	1,033
	Defer	936	72	35	13	13	5	29	1,103
	Total	2,938	862	351	173	88	40	143	4,595
Mar '17 - May '17	Grant	1,810	556	219	81	46	28	39	2,779
	Deny	405	315	150	115	66	32	80	1,163
	Defer	962	113	51	20	18	8	24	1,196
	Total	3,177	984	420	216	130	68	143	5,138
June '17 - Aug '17	Grant	1,850	628	226	101	44	21	51	2,921
	Deny	373	273	145	84	46	30	79	1,030
	Defer	886	92	63	26	24	10	33	1,134
	Total	3,109	993	434	211	114	61	163	5,085
Total	Grant	6,833	2,171	826	346	168	87	165	10,596
	Deny	1,572	1,157	572	355	203	106	313	4,278
	Defer	3,604	367	190	83	65	26	104	4,439
	Total	12,009	3,695	1,588	784	436	219	582	19,313

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	
Sept '16 - Nov '16	Grant	42	914	1,339	2,295
	Deny	216	524	304	1,044
	Defer	24	451	525	1,000
	Total	282	1,889	2,168	4,339
Dec '16 - Feb '17	Grant	37	877	1,403	2,317
	Deny	185	510	334	1,029
	Defer	27	454	563	1,044
	Total	249	1,841	2,300	4,390
Mar '17 - May '17	Grant	45	1,070	1,485	2,600
	Deny	233	590	340	1,163
	Defer	38	567	538	1,143
	Total	316	2,227	2,363	4,906
June '17 - Aug '17	Grant	51	1,185	1,539	2,775
	Deny	194	519	316	1,029
	Defer	43	500	550	1,093
	Total	288	2,204	2,405	4,897
Total	Grant	175	4,046	5,766	9,987
	Deny	828	2,143	1,294	4,265
	Defer	132	1,972	2,176	4,280
	Total	1,135	8,161	9,236	18,532
SAI Grants					509
No Parole Guideline Score					272
Total					19,313

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	0.02%	2,959	66.66%	2,960	33.96%
Further Discussion	1	0.02%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Investigation	0	0.00%	557	12.55%	557	6.39%
Lack of Effort	0	0.00%	855	19.26%	855	9.81%
Regular Parole	1	0.02%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Risk to Community	4,275	99.93%	0	0.00%	4,275	49.04%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	68	1.53%	68	0.78%
Total	4,278	100.00%	4,439	100.00%	8,717	100.00%