

**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**  
**Pursuant to P.A. 166 of 2020**  
**Section 422**  
**Parole Board Decisions Report – April 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, and 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	
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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,309</b>	<b>1,156</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>5,597</b>
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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,443</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>3,807</b>
Sept '20 - Nov '20	Grant	1,201	324	116	53	24	9	25	1,752
	Deny	412	207	110	68	48	24	45	914
	Defer	696	62	32	20	12	9	16	847
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,309</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>3,513</b>
Dec '20 - Feb '21	Grant	1,094	255	111	47	24	12	20	1,563
	Deny	404	240	103	57	45	31	64	944
	Defer	550	53	25	21	14	13	17	693
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,048</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>3,200</b>
Total	Grant	5,478	1,622	639	258	127	59	109	8,292
	Deny	1,480	996	532	301	204	129	250	3,892
	Defer	3,151	311	179	98	61	48	85	3,933
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,109</b>	<b>2,929</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>16,117</b>

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	
Mar '20 - May '20	Grant	65	1,401	1,528	2,994
	Deny	262	570	257	1,089
	Defer	47	742	588	1,377
	<b>Total</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>2,713</b>	<b>2,373</b>	<b>5,460</b>
Jun '20 - Aug '20	Grant	38	787	988	1,813
	Deny	176	555	210	941
	Defer	38	474	449	961
	<b>Total</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>1,816</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>3,715</b>
Sept '20 - Nov '20	Grant	38	708	964	1,710
	Deny	177	481	253	911
	Defer	29	437	364	830
	<b>Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>1,626</b>	<b>1,581</b>	<b>3,451</b>
Dec '20 - Feb '21	Grant	23	655	841	1,519
	Deny	173	509	259	941
	Defer	40	346	283	669
	<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>3,129</b>
Total	Grant	164	3,551	4,321	8,036
	Deny	788	2,115	979	3,882
	Defer	154	1,999	1,684	3,837
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>7,665</b>	<b>6,984</b>	<b>15,755</b>
SAI Grants					182
No Parole Guideline Score					180
<b>Total</b>					<b>16,117</b>

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%	2,912	74.04%	2,913	37.23%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	421	10.70%	421	5.38%
Investigation	0	0.00%	554	14.09%	554	7.08%
Regular Parole	1	0.03%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Risk to Community	3,890	99.95%	0	0.00%	3,890	49.71%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	46	1.17%	46	0.59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,892</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>3,933</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>7,825</b>	<b>100.00%</b>