

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

**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	
Mar '19 - May '19	Grant	1,708	522	188	59	37	23	46	2,583
	Deny	369	257	139	87	50	33	60	995
	Defer	1,224	95	58	37	32	14	28	1,488
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,301</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>5,066</b>
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
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,048</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>4,678</b>
Sept '19 - Nov '19	Grant	1,469	432	139	55	28	23	35	2,181
	Deny	268	210	104	63	35	29	37	746
	Defer	1,215	99	61	33	26	4	14	1,452
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,952</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>4,379</b>
Dec '19 - Feb '20	Grant	1,406	313	103	33	23	21	17	1,916
	Deny	284	150	64	50	30	23	27	628
	Defer	1,273	82	40	18	7	7	15	1,442
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,963</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>3,986</b>
Total	Grant	6,061	1,708	577	212	123	85	127	8,893
	Deny	1,232	886	461	273	155	111	171	3,289
	Defer	4,971	416	223	114	91	32	80	5,927
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12,264</b>	<b>3,010</b>	<b>1,261</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>18,109</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 '19 - May '19	Grant	62	1,049	1,320	2,431
	Deny	212	490	289	991
	Defer	60	715	692	1,467
	<b>Total</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>2,254</b>	<b>2,301</b>	<b>4,889</b>
Jun '19 - Aug '19	Grant	47	848	1,182	2,077
	Deny	172	516	229	917
	Defer	55	771	703	1,529
	<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>2,114</b>	<b>4,523</b>
Sept '19 - Nov '19	Grant	32	778	1,243	2,053
	Deny	181	420	141	742
	Defer	39	688	698	1,425
	<b>Total</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>2,082</b>	<b>4,220</b>
Dec '19 - Feb '20	Grant	28	730	1,057	1,815
	Deny	127	329	168	624
	Defer	46	674	683	1,403
	<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>1,733</b>	<b>1,908</b>	<b>3,842</b>
Total	Grant	169	3,405	4,802	8,376
	Deny	692	1,755	827	3,274
	Defer	200	2,848	2,776	5,824
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>8,008</b>	<b>8,405</b>	<b>17,474</b>
SAI Grants					439
No Parole Guideline Score					196
<b>Total</b>					<b>18,109</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%	4,553	76.82%	4,554	49.41%
Further Demonstration	3	0.09%	0	0.00%	3	0.03%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	811	13.68%	811	8.80%
Investigation	0	0.00%	491	8.28%	491	5.33%
Regular Parole	1	0.03%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Risk to Community	3,284	99.85%	0	0.00%	3,284	35.63%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	72	1.21%	72	0.78%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,289</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>5,927</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>9,216</b>	<b>100.00%</b>