

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 64 of 2019
Section 422
Parole Board Decisions Report – July 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	
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	1,469	434	139	56	28	23	35	2,184
	Deny	268	210	104	63	35	29	37	746
	Defer	1,216	99	61	33	26	4	14	1,453
	Total	2,953	743	304	152	89	56	86	4,383
Dec '19 - Feb '20	Grant	1,406	314	103	33	23	21	17	1,917
	Deny	284	150	64	50	30	23	27	628
	Defer	1,273	82	40	18	7	7	15	1,442
	Total	2,963	546	207	101	60	51	59	3,987
Mar '20 - May '20	Grant	1,919	723	260	98	41	21	35	3,097
	Deny	305	312	187	103	63	38	84	1,092
	Defer	1,086	119	82	34	27	20	38	1,406
	Total	3,310	1,154	529	235	131	79	157	5,595
Total	Grant	6,272	1,912	649	252	127	83	116	9,411
	Deny	1,168	941	509	289	168	116	195	3,386
	Defer	4,834	440	247	111	86	38	90	5,846
	Total	12,274	3,293	1,405	652	381	237	401	18,643

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	
Jun '19 - Aug '19	Grant	47	846	1,182	2,075
	Deny	172	516	229	917
	Defer	55	771	701	1,527
	Total	274	2,133	2,112	4,519
Sept '19 - Nov '19	Grant	33	777	1,244	2,054
	Deny	181	418	140	739
	Defer	39	686	697	1,422
	Total	253	1,881	2,081	4,215
Dec '19 - Feb '20	Grant	29	729	1,060	1,818
	Deny	126	338	164	628
	Defer	47	675	689	1,411
	Total	202	1,742	1,913	3,857
Mar '20 - May '20	Grant	65	1,401	1,525	2,991
	Deny	260	570	260	1,090
	Defer	46	739	584	1,369
	Total	371	2,710	2,369	5,450
Total	Grant	174	3,753	5,011	8,938
	Deny	739	1,842	793	3,374
	Defer	187	2,871	2,671	5,729
	Total	1,100	8,466	8,475	18,041
SAI Grants					387
No Parole Guideline Score					215
Total					18,643

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%	4,456	76.22%	4,457	48.28%
Further Demonstration	1	0.03%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	752	12.86%	752	8.15%
Investigation	0	0.00%	563	9.63%	563	6.10%
Regular Parole	1	0.03%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Risk to Community	3,383	99.91%	0	0.00%	3,383	36.64%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	75	1.28%	75	0.81%
Total	3,386	100.00%	5,846	100.00%	9,232	100.00%