

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 166 of 2020
Section 422
Parole Board Decisions Report – July 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	
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
	Total	2,443	632	324	156	94	60	98	3,807
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	695	62	32	20	12	9	16	846
	Total	2,308	593	258	141	84	42	86	3,512
Dec '20 - Feb '21	Grant	1,094	256	111	47	24	12	20	1,564
	Deny	405	240	103	57	45	31	64	945
	Defer	550	53	25	21	14	13	17	693
	Total	2,049	549	239	125	83	56	101	3,202
Mar '21 - May '21	Grant	930	242	89	36	17	10	19	1,343
	Deny	336	173	65	56	30	15	32	707
	Defer	1,008	50	36	9	15	7	15	1,140
	Total	2,274	465	190	101	62	32	66	3,190
Total	Grant	4,489	1,140	468	196	103	48	91	6,535
	Deny	1,512	857	410	254	171	106	198	3,508
	Defer	3,073	242	133	73	49	36	62	3,668
	Total	9,074	2,239	1,011	523	323	190	351	13,711

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 '20 - Aug '20	Grant	38	788	988	1,814
	Deny	176	555	210	941
	Defer	38	473	448	959
	Total	252	1,816	1,646	3,714
Sept '20 - Nov '20	Grant	37	707	964	1,708
	Deny	178	481	252	911
	Defer	27	437	364	828
	Total	242	1,625	1,580	3,447
Dec '20 - Feb '21	Grant	23	656	841	1,520
	Deny	174	509	258	941
	Defer	40	346	296	682
	Total	237	1,511	1,395	3,143
Mar '21 - May '21	Grant	37	559	696	1,292
	Deny	135	390	182	707
	Defer	41	528	526	1,095
	Total	213	1,477	1,404	3,094
Total	Grant	135	2,710	3,489	6,334
	Deny	663	1,935	902	3,500
	Defer	146	1,784	1,634	3,564
	Total	944	6,429	6,025	13,398
SAI Grants					146
No Parole Guideline Score					167
Total					13,711

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	0	0.00%	2,605	71.02%	2,605	36.30%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	599	16.33%	599	8.35%
Investigation	0	0.00%	427	11.64%	427	5.95%
Risk to Community	3,508	100.00%	0	0.00%	3,508	48.89%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	37	1.01%	37	0.52%
Total	3,508	100.00%	3,668	100.00%	7,176	100.00%