

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 64 of 2019
Section 422
Parole Board Decisions Report – October 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, 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	
Sept '19 - Nov '19	Grant	1,469	435	139	56	28	23	35	2,185
	Deny	268	210	104	63	35	29	37	746
	Defer	1,216	99	61	33	26	4	14	1,453
	Total	2,953	744	304	152	89	56	86	4,384
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	725	260	98	41	21	36	3,100
	Deny	305	312	187	103	63	38	84	1,092
	Defer	1,085	119	82	34	27	19	38	1,404
	Total	3,309	1,156	529	235	131	78	158	5,596
Jun '20 - Aug '20	Grant	1,264	316	151	60	38	17	27	1,873
	Deny	359	237	132	73	48	36	57	942
	Defer	821	76	40	23	8	7	14	989
	Total	2,444	629	323	156	94	60	98	3,804
Total	Grant	6,058	1,790	653	247	130	82	115	9,075
	Deny	1,216	909	487	289	176	126	205	3,408
	Defer	4,395	376	223	108	68	37	81	5,288
	Total	11,669	3,075	1,363	644	374	245	401	17,771

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 '19 - Nov '19	Grant	33	777	1,244	2,054
	Deny	181	418	139	738
	Defer	39	685	697	1,421
	Total	253	1,880	2,080	4,213
Dec '19 - Feb '20	Grant	29	728	1,059	1,816
	Deny	126	337	164	627
	Defer	47	674	692	1,413
	Total	202	1,739	1,915	3,856
Mar '20 - May '20	Grant	65	1,401	1,527	2,993
	Deny	261	571	257	1,089
	Defer	47	742	588	1,377
	Total	373	2,714	2,372	5,459
Jun '20 - Aug '20	Grant	38	788	985	1,811
	Deny	176	557	208	941
	Defer	38	478	433	949
	Total	252	1,823	1,626	3,701
Total	Grant	165	3,694	4,815	8,674
	Deny	744	1,883	768	3,395
	Defer	171	2,579	2,410	5,160
	Total	1,080	8,156	7,993	17,229
SAI Grants					317
No Parole Guideline Score					225
Total					17,771

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%	3,999	75.62%	4,000	46.00%
Further Discussion	0	0.00%	648	12.25%	648	7.45%
Investigation	0	0.00%	571	10.80%	571	6.57%
Regular Parole	1	0.03%	0	0.00%	1	0.01%
Risk to Community	3,406	99.94%	0	0.00%	3,406	39.17%
Satisfactory Placement	0	0.00%	70	1.32%	70	0.80%
Total	3,408	100.00%	5,288	100.00%	8,696	100.00%