

WHAT ARE THE PAROLE GUIDELINES?

The guidelines were created by the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles (ABPP) for use in assessing whether to release an individual on parole. However, the guidelines have never been validated. HB57 would finally require it.

WHY DO WE NEED PAROLE BOARD ACCOUNTABILITY?

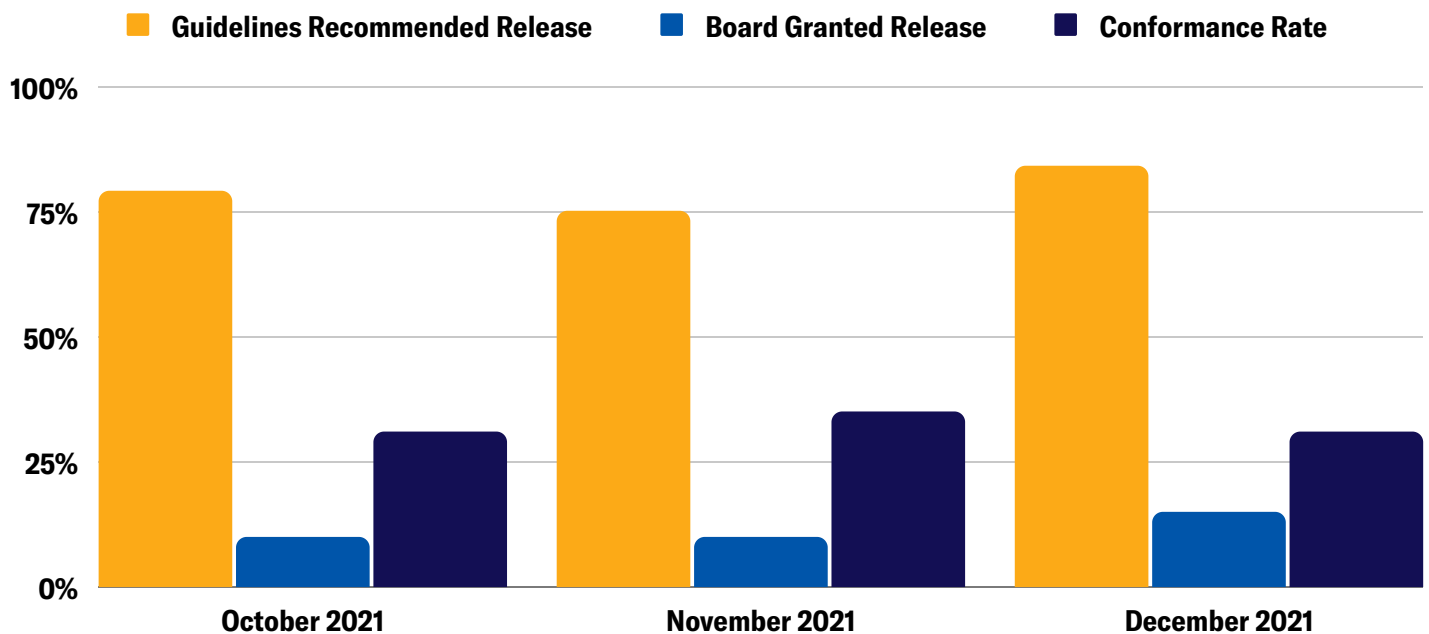
According to the Monthly Statistical Reports, in October 2021, the guidelines recommended granting parole in 79% of the cases heard by the Board that month. However, the Board only granted parole in 10% of cases. This means that the percentage of decisions made by the Board inline with the guidelines for the month of October was only 31%. This is also called the [conformance rate](#).

AVERAGE CONFORMANCE RATE FOR OCT-DEC 2021

The Board followed its own parole guidelines in only

32%

of the parole hearings during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2022.



HB57 would require the Board of Pardon and Paroles to use the parole guidelines in its decisions, or state its reasons in writing if it deviates from its guidelines.

When the Board deviates from its guidelines, HB57 provides a process for an applicant to appeal the decision within 30 days of their denial.

WHAT ELSE WILL HB57 DO?

HB57 does NOT permit the immediate release of anyone on parole.

HB57 DOES create a Criminal Justice Policy Development Council to review and assess the current guidelines and Board practices.

HB57 DOES allow the Policy Development Council to:

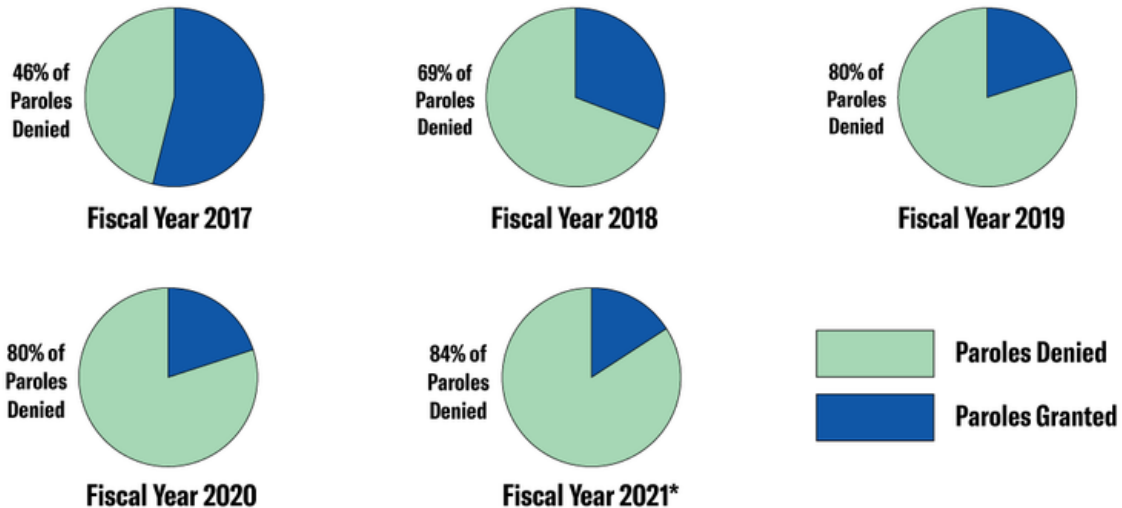
1. Update the inmate classification system for implementation by the Department of Corrections.
2. Create and adopt parole guidelines to be implemented by the Board of Pardons and Paroles.
3. Allow legislators to adopt a validated risk and needs assessment to be implemented by the Department of Corrections and the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

All of these items would be implemented by October 1, 2024.

Ultimately, HB57 will strengthen the Legislature’s oversight over the parole board after years of declining parole grants and increasing backlogs in the number of parole and pardon applications.

Alabama Parole Denials Climb to Historic High

(Fiscal Year 2017 – 2020 & 2021 [Year-To-Date]* Statistics)



Source: Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles' Website & Fiscal Year 2017-2020 Annual Reports