

**Department of Correction / Parole Collaboration Report to
The Executive Office for Administration and Finance, the House and Senate
Committees on Ways and Means and the Joint Committee on the Judiciary**

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Report as of July 6, 2021**

The funding being provided to the MA Department of Correction (DOC) and MA Parole Board (Parole) is intended to improve collaboration between the two agencies to reduce delays in the release of paroled inmates. This will be achieved by incentivizing participation in and completion of certain recidivism reduction programs in DOC facilities and increasing the number of people who receive supervision upon release. DOC and Parole have utilized Program Services staff and Research & Planning staff, respectively, to work collaboratively to achieve this goal.

Pursuant to budget line item 0330-0613, statistics regarding delayed paroled releases are provided below. For the purpose of this report, a “delayed release” is defined as any inmate being released to parole supervision from the DOC in the relevant Fiscal Year (FY) as a result of a positive parole board vote resulting from a release, rescission or revocation hearing more than 30 days past their parole reserve date. Those paroled from a life sentence, or who received a positive parole vote with a prescription, as well as those paroled on either mandatory or medical release have been excluded. The tables below provide delayed release breakdowns of these cohorts. Note that an individual can be released more than once in the time period reported (for example, an individual can be released to parole supervision, subsequently be returned to custody resulting in a final revocation of their parole, and then re-paroled within the same FY). Inmates serving county sentences at the DOC are also included.

**Table 1. FY 2018 Releases from DOC to Parole Supervision, By
No. of Days Between Reserve Date and Release Date**

Release Date - Reserve Date	N	%
30 Days or Less	318	77%
More than 30 Days (Delayed Release)	97	23%
Total	415	100%

97 offenders (23%) experienced a delayed release in FY 2018, with an average delay of 69 days.

**Table 2. FY 2019 Releases from DOC to Parole Supervision, By
No. of Days Between Reserve Date and Release Date**

Release Date - Reserve Date	N	%
30 Days or Less	357	80%
More than 30 Days (Delayed Release)	90	20%
Total	447	100%

90 offenders (20%) experienced a delayed release in FY 2019, with an average delay of 68 days.

**Table 3. FY 2020 Releases from DOC to Parole Supervision, By
No. of Days Between Reserve Date and Release Date**

Release Date - Reserve Date	N	%
30 Days or Less	373	76%
More than 30 Days (Delayed Release)	115	24%
Total	488	100%

In FY 2020, 115 offenders (24%) experienced a delayed release, with an average delay of 62 days.

**Table 4. FY 2021 Releases from DOC to Parole Supervision, By
No. of Days Between Reserve Date and Release Date**

Release Date - Reserve Date	N	%
30 Days or Less	340	83%
More than 30 Days (Delayed Release)	70	17%
Total	410	100%

Finally, in FY 2021, 70 offenders (17%) experienced a delayed release, with an average delay of 62 days. This is a seven percentage point decline in the proportion of DOC inmates experiencing delayed release compared to 24% in FY 2020.

Since FY 2018, the percentage of delayed releases were relatively consistent - from 23% in FY 2018, to 20% in FY 2019, to 24% in FY 2020. However, there was a relative decline in FY 2021 to only 17% of delayed releases, although the average number of delayed days did not change from FY 2020 and remained at 62 days.

There are various potential reasons why an offender may be released beyond the parole reserve date. These include but are not limited to:

- A change of vote request submitted by the offender to modify conditions of parole.
- A return to higher custody or disciplinary report.
- Offender is awaiting DA clearance; or the Board provides the reserve date but puts a condition such as “Reserve but not before written verification of employment opportunity,” or “Reserve ... but not before taking last test for GED,” or “Reserve but not before completion of 8 months in lower custody (pre-release),” etc.
- Offender is awaiting an available bed at a long term residential program or sober home.
- Insufficient home plan being submitted by the offender or active search for a suitable home plan.
- Interstate compact approval if offender will be released to supervision outside of Massachusetts.

The DOC and Parole continue to work collaboratively to ensure offenders are released to supervision within a reasonable timeframe.

Release to Supervision (“Mandatory Release”) from DOC

In 2019, as a result of the criminal justice review legislation, Chapter 72 of the Acts of 2018, DOC inmates could be issued a parole permit for mandatory release to supervision. A DOC inmate may be granted a mandatory release to supervision upon completing specific programs as determined by the DOC pursuant

to M.G.L. c. 127, § 130B. Completion of such programs earns the inmate credits, which deducts from their maximum sentence, consequently making them eligible for mandatory release. In FY 2020, there were 127 mandatory releases to supervision, compared to 158 such releases in FY 2021.

**Table 5. Mandatory Release to Supervision:
FY 2020 vs. FY 2021**

	N	%
FY 2020	127	45%
FY 2021	158	55%
Total	285	100%

During March 2020, in response to COVID-19, the DOC created an in-cell program opportunity for inmates to earn boost and completion credits. The COVID-19 packet program included two quizzes to measure competency and offered the opportunity for inmates to earn 2.5 days earned goodtime, 10 days boost, and 30 days completion credits. This led to additional inmates establishing a release to supervision date or reducing their release to supervision date.