

By: Senator(s) Smith

To: Corrections;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2657

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO CONTRACT
2 FOR INCARCERATION OF STATE JUVENILE OFFENDERS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
3 MAXIMUM AGE OF AN OFFENDER HOUSED IN THE FACILITY WILL BE
4 SEVENTEEN YEARS AND SIX MONTHS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE REGIMENTED
5 INMATE DISCIPLINE PROGRAM SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE FACILITY; TO
6 PROVIDE THAT ANY JUVENILE HOUSED IN THE FACILITY SHALL BE PROVIDED
7 CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND A PROGRAM FOR
8 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE CHIEF CORRECTIONS OFFICER
9 FOR THE FACILITY; TO PROVIDE A SALARY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

11 SECTION 1. The Mississippi Department of Corrections, in
12 consultation with the Directors of the Department of Human
13 Services and the Department of Finance and Administration, may
14 enter into a contract to provide for housing, care and control of
15 not more than two hundred fifty (250) juvenile offenders who are
16 in the custody of the Department of Corrections. The maximum age
17 of any offender housed in this facility shall be seventeen (17)
18 years and six (6) months. Any facility used for this purpose
19 shall be designed, constructed, operated and maintained in
20 accordance with American Correctional Association standards, and
21 shall comply with all constitutional standards of the United
22 States and the State of Mississippi and with all court orders that
23 may now or hereinafter be applicable to the facility.

24 SECTION 2. The Department of Corrections may contract for
25 the purposes set out in Section 1 of this act for a period of not
26 more than twenty (20) years. The contract may provide that the
27 Department of Corrections pay a fee of up to Twenty-four Dollars
28 and Ninety Cents (\$24.90) per day for each juvenile offender that
29 is housed in the facility. The Department of Corrections may

30 include in the contract, as an inflation factor, a three percent
31 (3%) annual increase in the contract price. The state shall
32 retain responsibility for medical care for state offenders to the
33 extent that is required by law.

34 SECTION 3. The regimented inmate discipline program, as
35 established by the Department of Corrections, shall be implemented
36 at the facility authorized in Section 1 of this act. For the
37 first ninety (90) days of a juvenile offender's incarceration in
38 the facility, he shall be assigned to a course in the regimented
39 inmate discipline program.

40 SECTION 4. The correctional facility authorized in Section 1
41 of this act shall provide any juvenile offender housed in the
42 facility with continuing education that leads to the presentation
43 of a high school diploma or General Education Development (GED)
44 equivalent. The facility also shall provide a program of
45 vocational education, which is to be included in the continuing
46 education program for a high school diploma or GED equivalent.

47 SECTION 5. Concurrent with the execution of a contract for
48 housing of state offenders as authorized by this act, the
49 Commissioner of Corrections shall designate a Chief Corrections
50 Officer for the facility housing state juvenile offenders who
51 shall assume responsibility for management of the juvenile
52 corrections facility and for the provision of the care and control
53 of the state juvenile offenders housed in the facility. The Chief
54 Corrections Officer shall be subject to the direction of the
55 department for management of the correctional facility and his
56 compensation shall be paid as decided by the Commissioner of
57 Corrections.

58 SECTION 6. This act shall be full and complete authority for
59 the exercise of all powers and authority granted herein and no
60 requirements or restrictions of law shall be applicable except as
61 expressly provided in this act.

62 SECTION 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from
63 and after its passage.