HOUSE BILL NO. 1555
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-943, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER AND MAXIMUM AGE OF JUVENILE
3 OFFENDERS THAT MAY BE HOUSED BY THE WALNUT GROVE CORRECTIONAL
4 AUTHORITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 47-5-943, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

47-5-943. The Mississippi Department of Corrections shall
contract with the Walnut Grove Correctional Authority or the
governing authorities of the Municipality of Walnut Grove, Leake
County, Mississippi, to provide for the private housing, care and
control of five hundred (500) juvenile offenders who are in the
custody of the Department of Corrections at a maximum security
facility in Walnut Grove; the department also may contract with
such authority or governing authorities for the housing at the
Walnut Grove facility of an additional two hundred fifty (250)
juvenile offenders in the department's custody. The maximum age
of any offender housed in this facility shall be twenty (20)
years. A county or circuit judge shall not order any juvenile to
be housed in the correctional facility authorized in Sections
47-5-943 through 47-5-953. Commitment of juvenile offenders shall
not be to this facility, but shall be to the jurisdiction of the
department. The commissioner shall assign newly sentenced
offenders to an appropriate facility consistent with public
safety. Any facility owned or leased by the Walnut Grove
Correctional Authority or the Municipality of Walnut Grove for
this purpose shall be designed, constructed, operated and
maintained in accordance with American Correctional Association
standards, and shall comply with all constitutional standards of the United States and the State of Mississippi and with all court orders that may now or hereinafter be applicable to the facility. The contract must comply with Sections 47-5-1211 through 47-5-1227.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.