

By: Representative Malone

To: Penitentiary

HOUSE BILL NO. 1138

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-943, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO INCREASE FROM 500 TO 700 THE NUMBER OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN  
3 THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR WHOM THE  
4 DEPARTMENT CAN CONTRACT WITH THE WALNUT GROVE CORRECTIONAL  
5 AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR HOUSING, CARE AND CONTROL IN THE  
6 CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; AND FOR RELATED  
7 PURPOSES.

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

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

11 47-5-943. The Mississippi Department of Corrections shall  
12 contract with the Walnut Grove Correctional Authority or the  
13 governing authorities of the Municipality of Walnut Grove, Leake  
14 County, Mississippi, to provide for the private housing, care and  
15 control of seven hundred (700) juvenile offenders who are in the  
16 custody of the Department of Corrections at a maximum security  
17 facility in Walnut Grove; the department also may contract with  
18 such authority or governing authorities for the housing at the  
19 Walnut Grove facility of an additional two hundred fifty (250)  
20 juvenile offenders in the department's custody. The maximum age  
21 of any offender housed in this facility shall be twenty (20)  
22 years. A county or circuit judge shall not order any juvenile to  
23 be housed in the correctional facility authorized in Sections  
24 47-5-943 through 47-5-953. Commitment of juvenile offenders shall  
25 not be to this facility, but shall be to the jurisdiction of the  
26 department. The commissioner shall assign newly sentenced  
27 offenders to an appropriate facility consistent with public  
28 safety. Any facility owned or leased by the Walnut Grove  
29 Correctional Authority or the Municipality of Walnut Grove for



30 this purpose shall be designed, constructed, operated and  
31 maintained in accordance with American Correctional Association  
32 standards, and shall comply with all constitutional standards of  
33 the United States and the State of Mississippi and with all court  
34 orders that may now or hereinafter be applicable to the facility.  
35 The contract must comply with Sections 47-5-1211 through  
36 47-5-1227.

37         **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
38 and after July 1, 2003.

