

By: Representative Malone

To: Corrections;  
AppropriationsCOMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 653

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-943, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS FOR WHICH THE  
3 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS MAY CONTRACT WITH THE WALNUT GROVE  
4 CORRECTIONAL FACILITY FOR THE HOUSING OF YOUTH OFFENDERS; TO  
5 INCREASE THE MAXIMUM AGE OF YOUTH OFFENDERS WHO MAY BE HOUSED AT  
6 THE FACILITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

10 47-5-943. The Mississippi Department of Corrections shall  
11 contract with the Walnut Grove Correctional Authority or the  
12 governing authorities of the Municipality of Walnut Grove, Leake  
13 County, Mississippi, to provide for the private housing, care and  
14 control of five hundred (500) juvenile offenders who are in the  
15 custody of the Department of Corrections at a maximum security  
16 facility in Walnut Grove; the department also may contract with  
17 such authority or governing authorities for the housing at the  
18 Walnut Grove facility of an additional five hundred (500) juvenile  
19 offenders in the department's custody. The maximum age of any  
20 offender housed in this facility shall be twenty-one (21) years of  
21 age, and upon reaching his or her twenty-first birthday, the  
22 offender must be removed from the facility speedily and within a  
23 reasonable amount of time. A county or circuit judge shall not  
24 order any juvenile to be housed in the correctional facility  
25 authorized in Sections 47-5-943 through 47-5-953. Commitment of  
26 juvenile offenders shall not be to this facility, but shall be to  
27 the jurisdiction of the department. The commissioner shall assign  
28 newly sentenced offenders to an appropriate facility consistent  
29 with public safety. Any facility owned or leased by the Walnut

30 Grove Correctional Authority or the Municipality of Walnut Grove  
31 for this purpose shall be designed, constructed, operated and  
32 maintained in accordance with American Correctional Association  
33 standards, and shall comply with all constitutional standards of  
34 the United States and the State of Mississippi and with all court  
35 orders that may now or hereinafter be applicable to the facility.  
36 The contract must comply with Sections 47-5-1211 through  
37 47-5-1227.

38       **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
39 and after July 1, 2004.