

By: Senator(s) Huggins

To: Corrections

SENATE BILL NO. 3154

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-943, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE THE AGE OF OFFENDERS WHO MAY BE HOUSED AT THE WALNUT
3 GROVE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

7 47-5-943. The Mississippi Department of Corrections may
8 contract with the Walnut Grove Correctional Authority or the
9 governing authorities of the Municipality of Walnut Grove, Leake
10 County, Mississippi, to provide for the private housing, care and
11 control of not more than one thousand (1,000) juvenile offenders
12 who are in the custody of the Department of Corrections at a
13 maximum security facility in Walnut Grove. The maximum age of any
14 offender housed in this facility shall be twenty-two (22) years of
15 age, and upon reaching his or her twenty-first birthday, the
16 offender must be removed from the facility speedily and within a
17 reasonable amount of time. A county or circuit judge shall not
18 order any juvenile to be housed in the correctional facility
19 authorized in Sections 47-5-943 through 47-5-953. Commitment of
20 juvenile offenders shall not be to this facility, but shall be to
21 the jurisdiction of the department. The commissioner shall assign
22 newly sentenced offenders to an appropriate facility consistent
23 with public safety. Any facility owned or leased by the Walnut
24 Grove Correctional Authority or the Municipality of Walnut Grove
25 for this purpose shall be designed, constructed, operated and
26 maintained in accordance with American Correctional Association
27 standards, and shall comply with all constitutional standards of

28 the United States and the State of Mississippi and with all court
29 orders that may now or hereinafter be applicable to the facility.
30 The contract must comply with Sections 47-5-1211 through
31 47-5-1227.

32 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
33 and after July 1, 2005.