

By: Representative Malone

To: Corrections

HOUSE BILL NO. 806

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-943, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS FROM 1,000 TO 1,500
3 FOR WHICH THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS MAY CONTRACT WITH THE
4 WALNUT GROVE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY FOR THE HOUSING OF YOUTH
5 OFFENDERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

9 47-5-943. The Mississippi Department of Corrections may
10 contract with the Walnut Grove Correctional Authority or the
11 governing authorities of the Municipality of Walnut Grove, Leake
12 County, Mississippi, to provide for the private housing, care and
13 control of not more than one thousand five hundred (1,500)
14 juvenile offenders who are in the custody of the Department of
15 Corrections at a maximum security facility in Walnut Grove. The
16 maximum age of any offender housed in this facility shall be
17 twenty-two (22) years of age, and upon reaching his or her
18 twenty-second birthday, the offender must be removed from the
19 facility speedily and within a reasonable amount of time. A
20 county or circuit judge shall not order any juvenile to be housed
21 in the correctional facility authorized in Sections 47-5-943
22 through 47-5-953. Commitment of juvenile offenders shall not be
23 to this facility, but shall be to the jurisdiction of the
24 department. The commissioner shall assign newly sentenced
25 offenders to an appropriate facility consistent with public
26 safety. Any facility owned or leased by the Walnut Grove
27 Correctional Authority or the Municipality of Walnut Grove for
28 this purpose shall be designed, constructed, operated and

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

35 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
36 and after July 1, 2007.