

By: Representative Malone

To: Penitentiary;
Appropriations

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1555

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

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

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

8 47-5-943. The Mississippi Department of Corrections shall
9 contract with the Walnut Grove Correctional Authority or the
10 governing authorities of the Municipality of Walnut Grove, Leake
11 County, Mississippi, to provide for the private housing, care and
12 control of up to five hundred (500) juvenile offenders who are in
13 the custody of the Department of Corrections at a maximum security
14 facility in Walnut Grove. The maximum age of any offender housed
15 in this facility shall be twenty (20) years. A county or circuit
16 judge shall not order any juvenile to be housed in the
17 correctional facility authorized in Sections 47-5-943 through
18 47-5-953. Commitment of juvenile offenders shall not be to this
19 facility, but shall be to the jurisdiction of the department. The
20 commissioner shall assign newly sentenced offenders to an
21 appropriate facility consistent with public safety. Any facility
22 owned or leased by the Walnut Grove Correctional Authority or the
23 Municipality of Walnut Grove for this purpose shall be designed,
24 constructed, operated and maintained in accordance with American
25 Correctional Association standards, and shall comply with all
26 constitutional standards of the United States and the State of
27 Mississippi and with all court orders that may now or hereinafter



28 be applicable to the facility. The contract must comply with
29 Sections 47-5-1211 through 47-5-1227.

30 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
31 and after July 1, 2002.

