

By: Representative Malone

To: Penitentiary;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1555

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-943, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS THAT MAY BE HOUSED BY
3 THE WALNUT GROVE CORRECTIONAL AUTHORITY AND TO INCREASE THE
4 MAXIMUM AGE OF SUCH OFFENDERS; AND FOR RELATED 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 one thousand (1,000) juvenile offenders who are
13 in the custody of the Department of Corrections at a maximum
14 security facility in Walnut Grove. The maximum age of any
15 offender housed in this facility shall be twenty (20) years. A
16 county or circuit judge shall not order any juvenile to be housed
17 in the correctional facility authorized in Sections 47-5-943
18 through 47-5-953. Commitment of juvenile offenders shall not be
19 to this facility, but shall be to the jurisdiction of the
20 department. The commissioner shall assign newly sentenced
21 offenders to an appropriate facility consistent with public
22 safety. Any facility owned or leased by the Walnut Grove
23 Correctional Authority or the Municipality of Walnut Grove for
24 this purpose shall be designed, constructed, operated and
25 maintained in accordance with American Correctional Association
26 standards, and shall comply with all constitutional standards of
27 the United States and the State of Mississippi and with all court
28 orders that may now or hereinafter be applicable to the facility.



29 The contract must comply with Sections 47-5-1211 through
30 47-5-1227.

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

