

By: Representative Malone

To: Penitentiary;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1555  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-943, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER AND MAXIMUM AGE OF JUVENILE  
3 OFFENDERS THAT MAY BE HOUSED BY THE WALNUT GROVE CORRECTIONAL  
4 AUTHORITY; 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 five hundred (500) juvenile offenders who are in the  
13 custody of the Department of Corrections at a maximum security  
14 facility in Walnut Grove; the department also may contract with  
15 such authority or governing authorities for the housing at the  
16 Walnut Grove facility of an additional two hundred fifty (250)  
17 juvenile offenders in the department's custody. The maximum age  
18 of any offender housed in this facility shall be twenty (20)  
19 years. A county or circuit judge shall not order any juvenile to  
20 be housed in the correctional facility authorized in Sections  
21 47-5-943 through 47-5-953. Commitment of juvenile offenders shall  
22 not be to this facility, but shall be to the jurisdiction of the  
23 department. The commissioner shall assign newly sentenced  
24 offenders to an appropriate facility consistent with public  
25 safety. Any facility owned or leased by the Walnut Grove  
26 Correctional Authority or the Municipality of Walnut Grove for  
27 this purpose shall be designed, constructed, operated and  
28 maintained in accordance with American Correctional Association



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

34         **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
35 and after its passage.

