
**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: GOVERNOR MUSGROVE

FROM: FELICIA GAVIN

RE: HB 1555 COMMENTS

DATE: APRIL 10, 2002

H. B. 1555 amends Section 47-5-943 to state that the Department of Corrections may contract with the authority or governing authorities for the housing at the Walnut Grove Facility of an additional 250 juvenile offenders in the Department's custody. The maximum age of an offender housed in the facility shall be 20 instead of 19.

NOTE: Currently up to 500 juveniles are being housed at the maximum facility in Walnut Grove. The services for these 500 juveniles are also being contracted with the Walnut Grove Correctional Authority. The question that needs to be asked and answered is whether the cost to provide services for these juveniles are more beneficial to contract to the Walnut Grove Facility or just simply to build a facility for the 500 plus the additional 250 juveniles. The Department of Corrections should have a cost analysis to determine the most beneficial and cost effective measures. I strongly feel that building a facility would be more cost effective in the long run. This is only my opinion because I don't know all the in's and out's of the program.

I recommend signing the bill.