SENATE BILL No. 344

March 23, 2005, Introduced by Senators ALLEN, BIRKHOLZ, OLSHOVE, GILBERT, GEORGE, GARCIA, BERNERO, VAN WOERKOM, GOSCHKA and STAMAS and referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor.

A bill to identify commerce centers; to target state funding; and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state agencies and officials.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1   Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the

2   "commerce center act".

3   Sec. 2. The legislature finds that it is in the public

4   interest to recognize certain communities as commerce centers

5   because of their urban and commercial character and that to improve

6   commercial growth and development in this state it is necessary to

7   provide these target areas with certain funding and assistance

8   programs.

9   Sec. 3. As used in this act:

1   (a) "Commerce center" means any of the following:

2   (*i*) A city.

3   (*ii*) A village.

4   (*iii*) A township that meets all of the following conditions:

5   (A) Is located in a county with a population greater than

6   400,000 as established by the latest federal decennial census.

7   (B) If the township has a population less than or equal to

8   20,000 as established by the latest federal decennial census, the

9   board of commissioners of the county in which the township is

10   located has adopted a resolution approving the township's

11   recognition as a commerce center.

12   (b) "Department" means the department of labor and economic

13   growth.

14   (c) "Incorporated community" means a city or village.

15   Sec. 4. (1) The department shall annually identify each city,

16   village, or township that qualifies as a commerce center under this

17   act.

18   (2) The department shall make recommendations to the

19   legislature for funding and program development that will assist

20   commerce centers in encouraging commercial growth and development.

21   (3) The department shall report annually to the legislature

22   regarding the activities and success of each commerce center

23   located in this state.