

# SENATE BILL No. 340

March 5, 2009, Introduced by Senators BIRKHOLZ, KUIPERS, VAN WOERKOM, BARCIA, GEORGE, RICHARDVILLE, ALLEN, BASHAM, HARDIMAN and CROPSEY and referred to the Committee on Economic Development and Regulatory Reform.

A bill to create certain offices in the Michigan economic development corporation; to provide for the appointment of certain officers with the advice and consent of the senate; and to impose certain duties and responsibilities on those officers and on certain state employees and public employees.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1. As used in this act, "Michigan economic development  
2 corporation" means the public body corporate created under section  
3 28 of article VII of the state constitution of 1963 and the urban  
4 cooperation act of 1967, 1967 (Ex Sess) PA 7, MCL 124.501 to  
5 124.512, by a contractual interlocal agreement effective April 5,  
6 1999 between local participating economic development corporations  
7 formed under the economic development corporations act, 1974 PA

1 338, MCL 125.1601 to 125.1636, and the Michigan strategic fund.

2       Sec. 2. (1) The office of business ombudsman is created in the  
3 Michigan economic development corporation. The business ombudsman  
4 shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of  
5 the senate. The individual appointed business ombudsman shall have  
6 experience in creating jobs in the private sector. The business  
7 ombudsman shall report directly to the president of the Michigan  
8 economic development corporation.

9       (2) The business ombudsman shall do all of the following:

10       (a) Assist in resolving disputes between private businesses  
11 and state agencies.

12       (b) Coordinate programs across government to create and retain  
13 business in this state.

14       (c) Aid and assist business development in this state.

15       (d) Work to create a business environment that encourages and  
16 sustains entrepreneurship in this state.

17       (e) Work to empower entrepreneurs to take advantage of the  
18 opportunities the market offers in this state.

19       (f) Coordinate processing of permits and resolving disputes  
20 that involve multiple state agencies.