Enterprise zones

Senate bill offers help for depressed cities

Older, depressed cities could set up low-tax 'neighborhood enterprise zones' to attract new housing under a bill before the Michigan Senate. "This is one of the most important

and exciting bills you'll see this year," said Gary Wolfram, deputy state treasurer and top economic theoretician in Gov. Engler's administration.

istration.

As written, the bill would apply to Pontlac, River Rouge, Ecorse, Hamtramek, Highland Park, Detroit and older outstate cities — but not Inkster. And that bothers Sen. George Z. Hart, D-Dearborn:

THE SENATE Local Government Committee recently gave the bill 4.0 approval. Chairman David Hontgman, R-West Bloomfield, and the worried Hart were among the yes votes.

It was not been also been so were considered but one — half of its housing stock was

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bullt since 1950," said Hart, whose district includes Inkster. "It has the highest homicide and drug addiction ratios in Wayne County. Sheriff. (Hobert) Ficano has to send a run there overy day? because local police are overburdened.

But the bill's spensor, Sen. Jon Clisty, R-Saginaw, was reluctant to expand the definition to Include Inkster for lear of opening a "Pandora's box."

box."

TO BE ELIGIBLE to set up a neighborhood enterprise zone, a city of 10,000 or more must:

Have an unemployment rate averaging 9.49 percent.
 Have a property tax burden of 65 mills or more or levy a city in-

68 mills or more or levy a city income lax.

• Have a housing stock in which
45 percent of the units were built before 1950.

• Suffered a population loss of 9
percent or more from 1970 to 1990.

A city council could designate a
one up to 10 percent of its area.

That area should be one that has

seen no new construction and little rehabilitation in recent years. Properly taxes would be cut by half or more on the buildings. New construction and rehabilitations would be eligible for a 12-per tax break.
Michigan has set up a business enterprise zone in Benton Harbor, but the Cisky-bill would apply to housing too.
Nationalty, the movement is champloned by Jack Kemp, secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

"WHAT BOTHERS me," said Sen. Gil DiNelle, Dellinton Townstilp, "is that these are the cities that are always in trouble. There a no incentive to do anything on their own." Wolfram said the Cisky bill was just the medicine to cure that allment, "We have lots of legislation to raise property taxes. This is the only one to lower them," said the former UM-Dearborn economies professor. This can get housing built this spring."

Sald Honlgman. "The only thing that sticks in my craw is that the city is designating the spots (enterprise zones). It could pick spots where the leaders get votes or campaign contributions. There could be lots of politics."
Wolfram sald there would be no tax incentive. If the city council played politics. City revenues would be enhanced only by new development or rehabs in arreas that have seen activities and the seen activities and the seen activities and the seen activities of the council popular to the city and the council popular to the city and the city and the council popular to the city and the

larger than 10 percent of a city's area.

In a city with 30 percent unemployment where no private house or apartment has been built since 1974, "How do we pick?" he asked. "We will need more (help), but we do need this."

OCC offers career direction in seminars on all campuses

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Seminars are offered at various times at four OCC campuses, including.

• Auburn Hills — The first session is 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, April 23, in Building B; Room 113. Gail Bryan is the facilitator/counselor, the campus is at 2900 Feath-erstone, east of the Pontiac Silver-dome, Auburn Hills.

all Campuses

• Orchard, Ridge — The first session is 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, In building L, Room 114. Darlenc Currier is the Lacillitator/counselor. The campus is at 27055 orchard Lake Road, south of 1-696, Farmington Hills.

• Southfield — The first session is 530-830 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, at Lower Levet, Room 113. Polly Bachrouche is the facilitator/counselor. The campus is at 2322 Rutland Drive, south of Nine Mille; cast of Southfield Road.

• Highland Lakes — The first session is 3-5 p.m. Monday, April 20, at Highland Lakes — The first session is 3-5 p.m. Monday, April 20, at Highland Hall, Room 331. Rozanne Allen is the facilitator/counselor. The campus is at 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake.

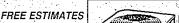
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