AN ACT CONCERNING OPPORTUNITY ZONES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 That the general statutes be amended to: (1) Appoint an ombudsman within the Department of Economic and Community Development to assist municipalities in setting up tax increment financing zones and advise municipalities on how to effectively use such zones to attract businesses; (2) establish minimum percentages of not less than fifteen per cent of manufacturing assistance act and brownfield remediation and development funds that must be spent within designated opportunity zones; (3) establish incentives for businesses participating in the small business express program to move to opportunity zones, including, but not limited to, reducing the amount of time a business is required to be in business to qualify for a grant and increasing the grant amount for every job created; (4) create training programs, in consultation with workforce investment boards, for municipalities that want to use tax increment financing funds for workforce development; (5) establish a state database of opportunity zones to provide information concerning properties that are available within opportunity zones, incentives available in particular zones and
municipal incentives offered through tax increment financing funds;
(6) authorize bonds of the state for the purpose of providing low-interest loans to investors who develop mixed income housing in opportunity zones; and (7) establish incentives for investors to develop mixed income housing that utilizes solar power or other renewable energy sources in opportunity zones.

Statement of Purpose:
To layer state benefits on top of opportunity zones to make opportunity zones more attractive to investors.