
SENATE BILL 5539

State of Washington

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By Senators Kohl-Welles, Prentice, White, Kilmer, Brown, and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/28/11. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection.

1 AN ACT Relating to Washington's motion picture competitiveness;
2 amending RCW 43.365.020, 43.365.030, and 82.04.4489; and reenacting and
3 amending RCW 43.365.010.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.365.010 and 2009 c 565 s 46 are each reenacted and
6 amended to read as follows:

7 The following definitions apply to this chapter, unless the context
8 clearly requires otherwise.

9 (1) "Approved motion picture competitiveness program" means a
10 nonprofit organization under the internal revenue code, section
11 501(c)(6), with the sole purpose of revitalizing the state's economic,
12 cultural, and educational standing in the national and international
13 market of motion picture production and assisting and providing
14 services for attracting the film industry, by recommending and awarding
15 financial assistance for costs associated with motion pictures in the
16 state of Washington.

17 (2) "Contribution" means cash contributions.

18 (3) "Costs" means actual expenses of production and postproduction
19 expended in Washington state for the production of motion pictures,

1 including but not limited to payments made for salaries, wages, and
2 health insurance and retirement benefits, the rental costs of machinery
3 and equipment and the purchase of services, food, property, lodging,
4 and permits for work conducted in Washington state.

5 (4) "Department" means the department of commerce.

6 (5) "Funding assistance" means cash expenditures from an approved
7 motion picture competitiveness program.

8 (6) "Motion picture" means a recorded audio-visual production
9 intended for distribution to ~~((theaters, DVD, video, or the internet,~~
10 ~~or television, or one or more episodes of a single television series,~~
11 ~~television pilots or presentations, or a commercial. "Motion picture"~~
12 ~~does not mean production of a television commercial of an amount less~~
13 ~~than two hundred fifty thousand dollars in actual total investment or~~
14 ~~one or more segments of a newscast or sporting event)) the public for~~
15 exhibition in public and/or private settings by means of any and all
16 delivery systems and/or delivery platforms now or hereafter known,
17 including without limitation, screenings in motion picture theaters,
18 broadcasts and cablecast transmissions for viewing on televisions,
19 computer screens, and other audio-visual receivers, viewings on screens
20 by means of digital video disc (DVD) players, video on demand (VOD)
21 services, and digital video recording (DVR) services, direct internet
22 transmission, and viewing on digital computer-based systems which
23 respond to the users' actions (interactive media).

24 (7) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 82.04.030.

25 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.365.020 and 2009 c 100 s 1 are each amended to read
26 as follows:

27 (1) The department ~~((shall))~~ must adopt criteria for ~~((an))~~ the
28 approved motion picture competitiveness program with the sole purpose
29 of revitalizing the state's economic, cultural, and educational
30 standing in the national and international market of motion picture
31 production. Rules adopted by the department shall allow the program,
32 within the established criteria, to provide funding assistance only
33 when it captures economic opportunities for Washington's communities
34 and businesses and shall only be provided under a contractual
35 arrangement with a private entity. In establishing the criteria, the
36 department shall consider:

1 (a) The additional income and tax revenue to be retained in the
2 state for general purposes;

3 (b) The creation and retention of family wage jobs which provide
4 health insurance and payments into a retirement plan;

5 (c) The impact of motion picture projects to maximize in-state
6 labor and the use of in-state film production and film postproduction
7 companies;

8 (d) The impact upon the local economies and the state economy as a
9 whole, including multiplier effects;

10 (e) The intangible impact on the state and local communities that
11 comes with motion picture projects;

12 (f) The regional, national, and international competitiveness of
13 the motion picture filming industry;

14 (g) The revitalization of the state as a premier venue for motion
15 picture production and national television commercial campaigns;

16 (h) Partnerships with the private sector to bolster film production
17 in the state and serve as an educational and cultural purpose for its
18 citizens;

19 (i) The vitality of the state's motion picture industry as a
20 necessary and critical factor in promoting the state as a premier
21 tourist and cultural destination;

22 (j) Giving preference to additional seasons of television series
23 that have previously qualified;

24 (k) Other factors the department may deem appropriate for the
25 implementation of this chapter.

26 (2) The board of directors created under RCW 43.365.030 shall
27 create and administer an account for carrying out the purposes of
28 subsection (3) of this section.

29 (3) Money received by ~~((an))~~ the approved motion picture
30 competitiveness program shall be used only for:

31 (a) Health insurance and payments into a retirement plan, and other
32 costs associated with film production; and

33 ~~((a tax credit marketer to market the tax credits authorized
34 under RCW 82.04.4489; and (c)))~~ Staff and related expenses to maintain
35 the program's proper administration and operation.

36 (4) Except as provided otherwise in subsection (7) of this section,
37 maximum funding assistance from ~~((an))~~ the approved motion picture

1 competitiveness program is limited to an amount up to thirty percent of
2 the total actual investment in the state of at least:

3 (a) Five hundred thousand dollars for a single (~~feature film~~)
4 motion picture produced in Washington state; or

5 (b) (~~Three hundred thousand dollars per television episode~~
6 ~~produced in Washington state; or~~

7 ~~(c)) One hundred fifty thousand dollars for ((an infomercial or))
8 a television commercial associated with a national or regional
9 advertisement campaign produced in Washington state.~~

10 (5) Except as provided otherwise in subsection (7) of this section,
11 maximum funding assistance from the approved motion picture
12 competitiveness program is limited to an amount up to thirty-five
13 percent of the total actual investment of at least three hundred
14 thousand dollars per episode produced in Washington state. A minimum
15 of six episodes of a series must be produced to qualify under this
16 subsection. A maximum of up to thirty percent of the total actual
17 investment from the approved motion picture competitiveness program may
18 be awarded to an episodic series of less than six episodes.

19 (6) With respect to costs associated with nonstate labor for motion
20 pictures and episodic services, funding assistance from the approved
21 motion picture competitiveness program is limited to an amount up to
22 fifteen percent of the total actual investment used for costs
23 associated with nonstate labor. To qualify under this subsection, the
24 production must have a labor force of at least eighty-five percent of
25 Washington residents. The board may establish additional criteria to
26 maximize the use of in-state labor.

27 (7)(a) The approved motion picture competitiveness program may
28 allocate an annual aggregate of no more than ten percent of the
29 qualifying contributions by the program under RCW 82.04.4489 to provide
30 funding support for filmmakers who are Washington residents, new forms
31 of production, and emerging technologies.

32 (i) Up to thirty percent of the actual investment for a motion
33 picture with an actual investment lower than that of motion pictures
34 under subsection (4)(a) of this section; or

35 (ii) Up to thirty percent of the actual investment of an
36 interactive motion picture intended for multiplatform exhibition and
37 distribution.

1 (b) Subsections (4) and (5) of this section do not apply to this
2 subsection.

3 (8) Funding assistance approval must be determined by the approved
4 motion picture competitiveness program within a maximum of thirty
5 calendar days from when the application is received, if the application
6 is submitted after August 15, 2006.

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.365.030 and 2008 c 85 s 2 are each amended to read
8 as follows:

9 (1) A Washington motion picture competitiveness program under this
10 chapter (~~(shall)~~) must be administered by a board of directors
11 appointed by the governor, and the appointments (~~(shall)~~) must be made
12 within sixty days following enactment. The department, after
13 consulting with the board, (~~(shall)~~) must adopt rules for the standards
14 that shall be used to evaluate the applications for funding assistance
15 prior to June 30, 2006.

16 (2) The board (~~(shall)~~) must evaluate and award financial
17 assistance to motion picture projects under rules set forth under RCW
18 43.365.020.

19 (3) The board (~~(shall)~~) must consist of the following members:

20 (a) One member representing the Washington motion picture
21 production industry;

22 (b) One member representing the Washington motion picture
23 postproduction industry;

24 (c) One member representing the Washington interactive media or
25 emerging motion picture industry;

26 (d) Two members representing labor unions affiliated with
27 Washington motion picture production;

28 (~~(d)~~) (e) One member representing the Washington visitors and
29 convention bureaus;

30 (~~(e)~~) (f) One member representing the Washington tourism
31 industry;

32 (~~(f)~~) (g) One member representing the Washington restaurant,
33 hotel, and airline industry; and

34 (~~(g)~~) (h) A chairperson, chosen at large, (~~(shall)~~) must serve at
35 the pleasure of the governor.

36 (4) The term of the board members, other than the chair, is four
37 years, except as provided in subsection (5) of this section.

1 (5) The governor (~~shall~~) must appoint board members in 2010 to
2 two-year or four-year staggered terms. Once the initial two-year or
3 four-year terms expire, all subsequent terms (~~shall be~~) are for four
4 years. The terms of the initial board members (~~shall be~~) are as
5 follows:

6 (a) The board positions in subsection (3)(b), (~~(d), and (f)~~) (e),
7 and (g) of this section, and one position from subsection (3)(~~e~~)
8 (d) of this section (~~shall~~) must be appointed to two-year terms; and

9 (b) The remaining board positions in subsection (3) of this section
10 shall be appointed to four-year terms.

11 (6) A board member appointed by the governor may be removed by the
12 governor for cause under RCW 43.06.070 and 43.06.080.

13 (7) Five members of the board constitute a quorum.

14 (8) The board (~~shall~~) must elect a treasurer and secretary
15 annually, and other officers as the board members determine necessary,
16 and may adopt bylaws or rules for its own government.

17 (9) The board (~~shall~~) must make any information available at the
18 request of the department to administer this chapter.

19 (10) Contributions received by a board (~~shall~~) must be deposited
20 into the account described in RCW 43.365.020(2).

21 **Sec. 4.** RCW 82.04.4489 and 2008 c 85 s 3 are each amended to read
22 as follows:

23 (1) Subject to the limitations in this section, a credit is allowed
24 against the tax imposed under this chapter for contributions made by a
25 person to a Washington motion picture competitiveness program.

26 (2) The person must make the contribution before claiming a credit
27 authorized under this section. Credits earned under this section may
28 be claimed against taxes due for the calendar year in which the
29 contribution is made. The amount of credit claimed for a reporting
30 period (~~shall~~) may not exceed the tax otherwise due under this
31 chapter for that reporting period. No person may claim more than one
32 million dollars of credit in any calendar year, including credit
33 carried over from a previous calendar year. No refunds may be granted
34 for any unused credits.

35 (3) The maximum credit that may be earned for each calendar year
36 under this section for a person is limited to the lesser of one million

1 dollars or an amount equal to one hundred percent of the contributions
2 made by the person to a program during the calendar year.

3 (4) Except as provided under subsection (5) of this section, a tax
4 credit claimed under this section may not be carried over to another
5 year.

6 (5) Any amount of tax credit otherwise allowable under this section
7 not claimed by the person in any calendar year may be carried over and
8 claimed against the person's tax liability for the next succeeding
9 calendar year. Any credit remaining unused in the next succeeding
10 calendar year may be carried forward and claimed against the person's
11 tax liability for the second succeeding calendar year; and any credit
12 not used in that second succeeding calendar year may be carried over
13 and claimed against the person's tax liability for the third succeeding
14 calendar year, but may not be carried over for any calendar year
15 thereafter.

16 (6)(a) Credits are available on a first in-time basis.

17 (b)(i) Prior to calendar year 2011, the department ((shall)) must
18 disallow any credits, or portion thereof, that would cause the total
19 amount of credits claimed under this section during any calendar year
20 to exceed three million five hundred thousand dollars.

21 (ii) Beginning calendar year 2011, the total amount of credits
22 claimed under this section may not exceed seven million dollars.

23 (iii) Beginning calendar year 2012 through calendar year 2014, the
24 limit of total available credits that may be claimed under this section
25 must increase by one million dollars from the previous calendar year.

26 (iv) From calendar year 2014 through calendar year 2017, the total
27 amount of credits claimed under this section may not exceed ten million
28 dollars per calendar year.

29 (c) If ((this)) a limitation in (b) of this subsection (6) is
30 reached, the department ((shall)) must notify all Washington motion
31 picture competitiveness programs that the annual statewide limit has
32 been met. In addition, the department ((shall)) must provide written
33 notice to any person who has claimed tax credits in excess of the
34 ((three million five hundred thousand dollar)) limitation in ((this))
35 (b) of this subsection (6). The notice ((shall)) must indicate the
36 amount of tax due and ((shall)) provide that the tax be paid within
37 thirty days from the date of ((such)) the notice. The department

1 ((shall)) may not assess penalties and interest as provided in chapter
2 82.32 RCW on the amount due in the initial notice if the amount due is
3 paid by the due date specified in the notice, or any extension thereof.

4 (7) To claim a credit under this section, a person must
5 electronically file with the department all returns, forms, and any
6 other information required by the department, in an electronic format
7 as provided or approved by the department. Any return, form, or
8 information required to be filed in an electronic format under this
9 section is not filed until received by the department in an electronic
10 format. As used in this subsection, "returns" has the same meaning as
11 "return" in RCW 82.32.050.

12 (8) No application is necessary for the tax credit. The person
13 must keep records necessary for the department to verify eligibility
14 under this section.

15 (9) A Washington motion picture competitiveness program ((shall))
16 must provide to the department, upon request, such information needed
17 to verify eligibility for credit under this section, including
18 information regarding contributions received by the program.

19 (10) The department ((shall)) may not allow any credit under this
20 section before July 1, 2006.

21 (11) For the purposes of this section, "Washington motion picture
22 competitiveness program" or "program" means an organization established
23 pursuant to chapter 43.365 RCW.

24 (12) No credit may be earned for contributions made on or after
25 July 1, ((2011)) 2017.

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