2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 748

BY REPRESENTATIVE STOKES

TAX CREDITS: Provides relative to the motion picture investor tax credit and the motion picture infrastructure investor tax credit

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 47:6007(B)(5), (10) through (16), (C)(1)(introductory
3	paragraph), (a)(iii) and (b)(iii), and (4)(e), (D)(2)(d)(i), (E), and (F)(1), and to enact
4	R.S. 47:6007(17) and (18), (C)(1)(c)(iii), (D)(1)(d)(iv) and (v) and (2)(d)(iii), (F)(4),
5	G, and H, relative to income tax credits; to provide with respect to the motion picture
6	investor tax credit; to provide for definitions; to provide eligibility for certain types
7	of productions; to provide requirements for the completion of projects and
8	certification of expenditures; to authorize assignment of credits to a lender under
9	certain circumstances; to provide for recapture of tax credits; to provide for the final
10	certification of certain expenditures for state-certified infrastructure projects; to
11	provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.
12	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
13	Section 1. R.S. 47:6007(B)(5), (10) through (16), (C)(1)(introductory paragraph),
14	(a)(iii) and (b) (iii), and (4)(e), (D)(2)(d)(i), (E), and (F)(1) are hereby amended and
15	reenacted, and R.S. 47:6007(B)(17) and (18), (C)(1)(c)(iii) , (D)(1)(d)(iv) and (v) and
16	(2)(d)(iii), (F)(4), G, and H are hereby enacted, to read as follows:
17	§6007. Motion picture investor tax credit
18	* * *
19	B. Definitions. For the purposes of this Section:
20	* * *

Page 1 of 10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

(5) "Motion picture" means a nationally or internationally distributed

feature-length film, video, television pilot, television series, television movie of the
week, animated feature film, animated television series, or commercial made in
Louisiana, in whole or in part, for theatrical or television viewing, or for viewing on
any digital online platform as may be further defined by the office through the
promulgation of rules. The term "motion picture" shall not include the production
of television coverage of news and athletic events.
* * *
(10) "Production expenditures" means preproduction, production, and
postproduction expenditures in this state directly relating to a state-certified
production, including without limitation the following: set construction and
operation; wardrobes, makeup, accessories, and related services; costs associated
with photography and sound synchronization, lighting, and related services and
materials; editing and related services; rental of facilities and equipment; leasing of
vehicles; costs of food and lodging; digital or tape editing, film processing, transfer
of film to tape or digital format, sound mixing, special and visual effects; and
payroll. This For all state-certified productions approved on or after January 1, 2004,
this term shall not include expenditures for marketing and distribution, non-
production related overhead, amounts reimbursed by the state or any other
governmental entity, costs related to the transfer of tax credits, amounts that are paid
to persons or entities as a result of their participation in profits from the exploitation
of the production, the application fee, or state, or local taxes, or any expenditures
occurring outside of Louisiana.
(11) "Project completion" means completion of principal photography, or as
otherwise approved in writing by the office.
(11)(12) "Qualified accountant" means an independent certified public
accountant authorized to practice in this state who has sufficient knowledge of
accounting principles and practices generally recognized in the film and television

29 industry.

Page 2 of 10

1	(12)(13) "Resident" or "resident of Louisiana" means a natural person	
2	domiciled in the state. A person who maintains a permanent place of abode within	
3	the state and spends in the aggregate more than six months of each year within the	
4	state shall be presumed to be domiciled in the state.	
5	(13)(14) "Secretary" means the secretary of the Department of Economic	
6	Development.	
7	(14)(15) "Source within the state" means a physical facility in Louisiana,	
8	operating with posted business hours and employing at least one full-time equivalent	
9	employee.	
10	(15)(16) "State" means the state of Louisiana.	
11	(16)(17) "State-certified production" shall mean means a production	
12	approved by the office and the secretary which is produced by a motion picture	
13	production company domiciled and headquartered in Louisiana and which has a	
14	viable multi-market commercial distribution plan.	
15	(18) "Taxpayer" means an investor in a production, a motion picture	
16	production company applicant, individual with an ownership interest in a motion	
17	picture production company applicant, or a subsequent transferee of the tax credit.	
18	C. Investor tax credit; specific productions and projects.	
19	(1) There is hereby authorized a tax credit against state income tax for	
20	Louisiana taxpayers for investment in state-certified productions for initial	
21	certifications issued on or after January 1, 2016. The tax credit shall be earned by	
22	investors at the time expenditures are made by a motion picture production company	
23	in a state-certified production when certified by the office, according to the total base	
24	investment certified per calendar year, as set forth in the final certification issued to	
25	the motion picture production company. However, credits Credits cannot be applied	
26	against a tax or transferred until the expenditures are certified by the office and the	
27	secretary. For state-certified productions, expenditures shall be certified no more	
28	than twice during the duration of a state-certified production unless the motion	
29	picture production company agrees to reimburse the office for the costs of any	

Page 3 of 10

1	additional certifications once per production, after project completion. The tax credit		
2	shall be calculated as a percentage of the total base investment dollars certified per		
3	project.		
4	(a) For state-certified productions approved by the office and the secretary		
5	on or after January 1, 2004, but before January 1, 2006:		
6	* * *		
7	(iii) The initial certification shall be effective for <u>qualifying expenditures</u>		
8	made within a period twelve months prior to and twelve months after the date of		
9	initial certification, unless the production has commenced, in which case the initial		
10	certification shall be valid until the production is completed.		
11	(b) For state-certified productions approved by the office and the secretary		
12	on or after January 1, 2006, but before July 1, 2009:		
13	* * *		
14	(iii) The initial certification shall be effective for <u>qualifying expenditures</u>		
15	made within a period twelve months prior to and twelve months after the date of		
16	initial certification, unless the production has commenced, in which case the initial		
17	certification shall be valid until the production is completed.		
18	(c) For state-certified productions approved by the office and the secretary		
19	on or after July 1, 2009:		
20	* * *		
21	(iii) The initial certification shall be effective for qualifying expenditures		
22	made within a period twelve months prior to and twenty-four months after the date		
23	of the initial certification.		
24	* * *		
25	(4) Transferability of the credit. Any motion picture tax credits not		
26	previously claimed by any taxpayer against its income tax may be transferred or sold		
27	to another Louisiana taxpayer or to the office, subject to the following conditions:(3)		
28	Application of the credit.		
29	* * *		

Page 4 of 10

1	(e) To the extent that the transferor did not have rights to claim or use the		
2	credit at the time of the transfer, the Department of Revenue shall either disallow the		
3	credit claimed by the transferee or recapture the credit from the transferee through		
4	any collection method authorized by R.S. 47:1561. The transferee's recourse is		
5	against the transferor have recourse against the transferor.		
6	D. Certification and administration.		
7	(1)		
8	* * *		
9	(d) When determining which productions may qualify, the office and the		
10	secretary of the Department of Economic Development shall take the following		
11	factors into consideration:		
12	* * *		
13	(iv) Conviction for a criminal offense as an incident to obtaining or		
14	attempting to obtain motion picture investor tax credits.		
15	(v) Any other compelling reason or circumstance for which the secretary		
16	determines that denial of certification is in the best interest of the state.		
17	(2)		
18	* * *		
19	(d)(i) Prior to any final certification of the state-certified production, the		
20	motion picture production company shall submit to the office and the secretary a		
21	production audit report. No later than six months after the expiration of the initial		
22	certification period for the applicable state-certified production, a taxpayer shall		
23	submit to the office all requests and required documentation for final certification of		
24	all tax credits granted by this Section, after which time all such claims to tax credits		
25	shall be deemed waived. The office and the secretary shall review the production		
26	audit report and may require additional information needed to make a determination		
27	as to certification. Within one hundred twenty days of the receipt of the production		
28	audit report and all required supporting information, the office and the secretary shall		
29	issue a tax credit certification letter indicating the amount of tax credits certified for		

1	the state-certified production to the investors for all qualifying expenditures verified		
2	by the office. Any expenditures for which tax credits were neither denied nor		
3	certified due to insufficient information or other issues, the office and secretary shall		
4	diligently work to resolve the outstanding issues in a timely manner, and the office		
5	and secretary may subsequently issue a supplemental tax credit certification at the		
6	time of such resolution.		
7	* * *		
8	(iii) Only expenditures made during the initial certification period shall earn		
9	credits.		
10	* * *		
11	E. Recapture of credits. If the office finds that monies for which an investor		
12	received tax credits according to this Section are not invested in and expended with		
13	respect to a state-certified production within twenty-four months of the date that such		
14	credits are earned, then the investor's state income tax for such taxable period a		
15	taxpayer has obtained a tax credit in violation of the provisions of this Chapter,		
16	including but not limited to shall be increased by such amount necessary for the		
17	recapture of credit provided by this Section convictions related to fraud or		
18	misrepresentation, the taxpayer shall be assessed by the Department of Revenue for		
19	the tax period in which the tax credits are invalidated in an amount necessary for the		
20	recapture of tax credits.		
21	F. Recovery of credits by Department of Revenue. (1) Credits Except as		
22	provided in Paragraph (4) of this Subsection, credits previously granted to certified		
23	and paid, claimed, or obtained by a taxpayer, but later disallowed, may be recovered		
24	by the secretary of the Department of Revenue through any collection remedy		
25	authorized by R.S. 47:1561, plus interest and penalties provided by law for the		
26	delinquent payment of taxes, and initiated within three years from December thirty-		
27	first of the year in which the twenty-four-month investment period specified in		
28	Subsection E of this Section ends. by the latter of any of the following:		

Page 6 of 10

1	(a) Two years from December thirty-first in the year in which the tax credit		
2	was paid.		
3	(b) Two years from December thirty-first in the year in which the tax credit		
4	was claimed.		
5	(c) Two years from December thirty-first in the year in which the tax credit		
6	was registered with the Louisiana Tax Credit Registry, as required by R.S. 47:1524.		
7	(d) Three years from December thirty-first of the year in which the taxes for		
8	the filing period were due.		
9	* * *		
10	(4) No disallowance or recapture of a tax credit shall be allowed for a tax		
11	credit claimed by a good faith purchaser who acquired the credit through a transfer		
12	authorized pursuant to this Section.		
13	G. Tax credits provided for in this Section shall not be considered		
14	entitlements, and the taxpayer shall bear the burden of establishing eligibility for tax		
15	credits by a preponderance of the evidence.		
16	H. Audit reports for certification of expenditures for state-certified motion		
17	picture infrastructure program tax credits shall be submitted in accordance with the		
18	provisions of this Subsection.		
19	(1) State-certified infrastructure project applicants may submit to the office		
20	on or before December 31, 2015, all requests and required documentation for final		
21	certification of all tax credits granted by this provision, after which time all such		
22	claims to tax credits shall be deemed waived.		
23	(2) Any request shall be accompanied by an audit performed by an		
24	independent certified public accountant.		
25	(3) The office, the secretary, and the division shall review the audit, and may		
26	require additional information needed to make a determination as to certification.		
27	(4) The office may request an additional audit report of expenditures		
28	submitted by the state-certified motion picture infrastructure project applicant, with		
29	the cost of the additional report paid by the applicant.		

Page 7 of 10

1	(5) Within three hundred and sixty five days after receipt of the audit report	
2	and all required supporting information, or December 31, 2016, whichever occurs	
3	first, the office, the secretary, and the division shall issue a denial letter or a tax	
4	credit certification letter to the investors indicating the amount of tax credits certified	
5	for the state-certified infrastructure project for all qualifying expenditures verifie	
6	by the office.	
7	(6) Tax credits provided for in this Section shall not be considered	
8	entitlements, and the state-certified motion picture infrastructure applicant shall bear	
9	the burden of establishing eligibility for tax credits by a preponderance of the	
10	evidence.	
11	(7) In the event that a request for final certification is denied, an applicant	
12	may appeal the decision in accordance with program rules.	
13	(8) No motion picture infrastructure tax credits shall be certified after July	
14	<u>1, 2017.</u>	
15	Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor	
16	or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without	
17	signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of	
18	Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act	
19	shall become effective on the day following such approval.	

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 748 Reengrossed	2015 Regular Session	Stokes
--------------------	----------------------	--------

Abstract: Numerous procedural changes to the motion picture *investor* tax credit program, also includes addition of eligibility for online productions, and requirements specific to final certifications of project expenditures for motion picture *infrastructure* investor tax credits.

<u>Present law</u> authorizes a tax credit against state income tax based on motion picture production expenditures for state-certified productions. The tax credit is calculated as a percentage of the total base investment dollars certified per project.

<u>Present law</u> authorizes an income tax credit equal to 30% of production expenditures for all state-certified productions approved after July 1, 2009. Also provides an additional tax

Page 8 of 10

credit equal to 5% of the base investment expended on payroll for La. residents employed in connection with all state-certified productions.

<u>Proposed law</u> for productions granted initial certification on or after Jan. 1, 2016, makes several changes regarding the procedures and time periods involved with initial certification of expenditures.

<u>Proposed law</u> changes the <u>present law</u> definition for <u>motion picture</u> to include eligibility for motion pictures developed for viewing online, and adds a definition for "taxpayer".

<u>Present law</u> provides that the tax credit is earned when production expenditures are "certified" by the office of entertainment industry development within the Dept. of Economic Development (DED). Expenditures may be certified no more than twice during the duration of a state-certified production, unless the motion picture production company agrees to reimburse DED for the cost of additional certifications.

<u>Proposed law</u> changes <u>present law</u> by reducing the number of times expenditures can be certified and changes the timing of certifications for expenditures <u>from</u> twice during the production to once after the project is completed.

<u>Proposed law</u> specifies that the initial certification shall be effective for qualifying expenditures made within 12 months before and 24 months after the date of initial certification.

<u>Proposed law</u> adds a requirement that no later than six months after the expiration of the initial certification period for the applicable state-certified production, a taxpayer is required to submit to the office all requests and required documentation for final certification of all tax credits or the claims to such tax credits shall be deemed waived.

<u>Proposed law</u> changes the time period within which the Dept. of Revenue may recapture credits which were granted and then disallowed, providing for specific time periods based upon whether the credit was paid, claimed, or registered with the La. Tax Credit Registry.

<u>Present law</u> with respect to the transfer of tax credits from one owner to another, provides that in the event the transferor did not have rights or claim to use the credit at the time of transfer, the Dept. of Revenue shall either disallow or recapture the credit from the transferee. The transferee's recourse is against the transferor.

<u>Proposed law</u> changes <u>present law</u> by providing that in such case the Dept. of Revenue shall have recourse against the transferror.

<u>Present law</u> authorizes the recapture of the value of any tax credits if DED finds that the credits were obtained through fraud or misrepresentation. The Dept. of Revenue is authorized to assess the taxpayer in an amount equal to the value of the tax credits. <u>Present law</u> further provides for the collection of amounts associated with credits which have been disallowed by DED.

<u>Proposed law</u> prohibits the disallowance or recapture of a tax credit that is claimed by a good faith purchaser who acquired the credit through a transfer authorized by <u>present law</u>.

<u>Prior law</u> sunsets the motion picture *infrastructure* investor tax credit on Dec. 31, 2008, by repealing the authority to issue credits for any state-certified project for which less than 50% of the base investment provided for in the initial certification had been expended by Dec. 31, 2008.

<u>Proposed law</u> adds requirements regarding submission and consideration of audit reports for final certification of state-certified expenditures for the motion picture *infrastructure* investor tax credits.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 47:6007(B)(5), (10)-(16), (C)(1)(intro. para.), (a)(iii) and (b)(iii), and (4)(e), (D)(2)(d)(i), (E), and (F)(1); Adds R.S. 47:6007(B)(17) and (18), (C)(1)(c)(iii), (D)(1)(d)(iv) and (v) and (2)(d)(iii), (F)(4) (G), and (H))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Ways and Means</u> to the <u>original</u> bill:

- 1. Add a starting date for provisions of <u>proposed law</u> with regard to the motion picture investor tax credit.
- 2. Add a definition for "taxpayer" for purposes of the motion picture investor tax credit.
- 3. Add provisions governing the time period authorized for the recovery of disallowed tax credits by the Dept. of Revenue.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

- 1. Change provisions governing transfers of tax credits when a credit is sold by a transferor with no right to claim or use the credit.
- 2. Add prohibition on the disallowance or recapture of a tax credit claimed by a good faith purchaser.