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), (D)(2)(d)(i), (E), and (F)(1), and to add R.S.
4	47:6007(B)(17), (C)(1), and (c)(iii), (D)(1)(d)(iv) and (v) and (2)(d)(iii), G, and H,
5	relative to income tax credits; to provide with respect to the motion picture investor
6	tax credit; to provide for definitions; to provide eligibility for certain types of
7	productions; to provide requirements for the completion of projects and certification
8	of expenditures; to authorize assignment of credits to a lender under certain
9	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), (D)(2)(d)(i), (E), and (F)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted, and R.S.
15	47:6007(B)(17), (C)(1)(c)(iii), (D)(1)(d)(iv) and (v) and (2)(d)(iii), G, and H are hereby
16	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 9

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

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8 (10) "Production expenditures" means preproduction, production, and 9 postproduction expenditures in this state directly relating to a state-certified 10 production, including without limitation the following: set construction and 11 operation; wardrobes, makeup, accessories, and related services; costs associated 12 with photography and sound synchronization, lighting, and related services and materials; editing and related services; rental of facilities and equipment; leasing of 13 14 vehicles; costs of food and lodging; digital or tape editing, film processing, transfer 15 of film to tape or digital format, sound mixing, special and visual effects; and 16 payroll. This For all state-certified productions approved on or after January 1, 2004, 17 this term shall not include expenditures for marketing and distribution, nonproduction related overhead, amounts reimbursed by the state or any other 18 19 governmental entity, costs related to the transfer of tax credits, amounts that are paid 20 to persons or entities as a result of their participation in profits from the exploitation 21 of the production, the application fee, or state, or local taxes or any expenditures 22 occurring outside of Louisiana.

(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 provided by the office. The term "motion picture"

shall not include the production of television coverage of news and athletic events.

23 (11) "Project completion" means completion of principal photography, or as
24 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
industry.

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, motion picture production company
16	applicant, individual with an ownership interest in a motion picture production
17	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

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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	within a period twelve months prior to and twenty-four months after the date of the
23	initial certification.
24	* * *
25	D. Certification and administration.
26	(1)
27	* * *

## Page 4 of 9

1	(d) When determining which productions may qualify, the office and the
2	secretary of the Department of Economic Development shall take the following
3	factors into consideration:
4	* * *
5	(iv) Conviction for a criminal offense as an incident to obtaining or
6	attempting to obtain motion picture investor tax credits.
7	(v) Any other cause the secretary determinates to be so serious and
8	compelling that denial of certification is in the best interest of the state.
9	(2)
10	* * *
11	(d)(i) Prior to any final certification of the state-certified production, the
12	motion picture production company shall submit to the office and the secretary a
13	production audit report. No later than six months after the expiration of the initial
14	certification period for the applicable state-certified production, a taxpayer shall
15	submit to the office all requests and required documentation for final certification of
16	all tax credits granted by this provision, after which time all such claims to tax
17	credits shall be deemed waived. The office and the secretary shall review the
18	production audit report and may require additional information needed to make a
19	determination as to certification. Within one hundred twenty days of the receipt of
20	the production audit report and all required supporting information, the office and
21	the secretary shall issue a tax credit certification letter indicating the amount of tax
22	credits certified for the state-certified production to the investors for all qualifying
23	expenditures verified by the office. Any expenditures for which tax credits were
24	neither denied nor certified due to insufficient information or other issues, the office
25	and secretary shall diligently work to resolve the outstanding issues in a timely
26	manner, and the office and secretary may subsequently issue a supplemental tax
27	credit certification at the time of such resolution.
28	* * *

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## Page 5 of 9

1	(iii) Only expenditures made during the initial certification period shall earn
2	credits.
3	* * *
4	E. Recapture of credits. If the office finds that monies for which an investor
5	received tax credits according to this Section are not invested in and expended with
6	respect to a state-certified production within twenty-four months of the date that such
7	credits are earned, then the investor's state income tax for such taxable period a
8	taxpayer has obtained a tax credit in violation of the provisions of this Chapter,
9	including but not limited to shall be increased by such amount necessary for the
10	recapture of credit provided by this Section convictions related to fraud or
11	misrepresentation, the taxpayer shall be assessed by the Department of Revenue for
12	the tax period in which the tax credits are invalidated in an amount necessary for the
13	recapture of tax credits.
14	F. Recovery of credits by Department of Revenue. (1) Credits previously
15	granted to certified and paid, claimed or obtained by a taxpayer, but later disallowed,
16	may be recovered by the secretary of the Department of Revenue through any
17	collection remedy authorized by R.S. 47:1561, plus interest and penalties provided
18	by law for the delinquent payment of taxes, and initiated within three years from
19	December thirty-first of the year in which the twenty-four-month investment period
20	specified in Subsection E of this Section ends. the latter of any of the following:
21	(a) Two years from December thirty-first in the year in which the tax credit
22	was paid.
23	(b) Two years from December thirty-first in the year in which the tax credit
24	was claimed.
25	(c) Two years from December thirty-first in the year in which the tax credit
26	was registered with the Louisiana Tax Credit Registry, as required by R.S. 47:1524.
27	(d) Three years from December thirty-first of the year in which the taxes for
28	the filing period were due.
29	* * *

## Page 6 of 9

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1	G. Tax credits provided for in this Section shall not be considered
2	entitlements, and the motion picture production company shall bear the burden of
3	clearly and unequivocally establishing eligibility for tax credits.
4	H. Audit reports for certification of expenditures for state-certified motion
5	picture infrastructure program tax credits shall be submitted in accordance with the
6	provisions of this Subsection.
7	(1) State-certified infrastructure project applicants may submit to the office
8	on or before December 31, 2015, all requests and required documentation for final
9	certification of all tax credits granted by this provision, after which time all such
10	claims to tax credits shall be deemed waived.
11	(2) Any request shall be accompanied by an audit performed by an
12	independent certified public accountant.
13	(3) The office, the secretary, and the division shall review the audit, and may
14	require additional information needed to make a determination as to certification.
15	(4) The office may request an additional audit report of expenditures
16	submitted by the state-certified motion picture infrastructure project applicant, with
17	the cost of the additional report paid by the applicant.
18	(5) Within three hundred and sixty five days after receipt of the audit report
19	and all required supporting information, or December 31, 2016, whichever occurs
20	first, the office, the secretary, and the division shall issue a denial letter or a tax
21	credit certification letter to the investors indicating the amount of tax credits certified
22	for the state-certified infrastructure project for all qualifying expenditures verified
23	by the office.
24	(6) Tax credits provided for in this Section shall not be considered
25	entitlements, and the state-certified motion picture infrastructure applicant shall bear
26	the burden of clearly and unequivocally establishing eligibility for tax credits.
27	(7) In the event that a request for final certification is denied, an applicant
28	may appeal the decision in accordance with program rules.

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(8) No motion picture infrastructure tax credits shall be certified after July
<u>1, 2017.</u>
Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor
or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without

5 signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of

6 Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act

7 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)]

UP 748 Engrossed	2015 Pagular Session	Stokes
HB 748 Engrossed	2015 Regular Session	Slokes

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 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 <u>to</u> 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.

#### Page 8 of 9

<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>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), (D)(2)(d)(i), (E), and (F)(1); Adds R.S. 47:6007(B)(17), (C)(1)(c)(iii), (D)(1)(d)(iv) and (v) and (2)(d)(iii), (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.