Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1	INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-090
2	State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H3/26/07
3	86th General Assembly A B1II
4	Regular Session, 2007HOUSE BILL2680
5	
6	By: Representative Saunders
7	Referred to
8	Advanced Communications And Information Technology - House
9	by the House of Representatives
10	on 04/02/2007
11	
12	
13	For An Act To Be Entitled
14	AN ACT TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES FOR THE
15	PRODUCTION AND POST-PRODUCTION OF FILM AND
16	DIGITAL CONTENT IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; TO
17	ESTABLISH AN ARKANSAS FUTURE FILMMAKER'S FUND; TO
18	ESTABLISH A FILM INVESTMENT CREDIT FOR RESIDENTS
19	OF ARKANSAS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF
20	FILM AND DIGITAL CONTENT PRODUCTION COMPANIES
21	DOING BUSINESS IN THE STATE; AND FOR OTHER
22	PURPOSES.
23	
24	Subtitle
25	AN ACT TO ESTABLISH FINANCIAL INCENTIVES
26	FOR THE PRODUCTION AND POST-PRODUCTION
27	OF FILM AND DIGITAL-MEDIUM MOTION
28	PICTURES WITHIN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.
29	
30	
31	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
32	
33	SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapter 4 is amended to add an
34	additional subchapter to read as follows:
35	<u>15-4-3301. Title.</u>
36	This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Digital Content

1	AND Film Industry Development Act of 2007".
2 3	15 1 2202 Logiclative intent Findings
	<u>15-4-3302. Legislative intent - Findings.</u>
4	(a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to assist in cultivating
5	<u>the film industry by:</u> $(1)(A) \text{Pecharing that the citizens of Arkanese shall be provided}$
6 7	(1)(A) Declaring that the citizens of Arkansas shall be provided with the education, training, and financial tools to succeed in today's
8	gl obal economy.
9	(B) The economic landscape of the state and nation has
10	moved from a manufacturing-based economy to an economy based on knowledge and
11	technol ogy.
12	(C) To further cultivate the state's knowledge and
13	technology based economy, the film and digital content industry in Arkansas
14	shall be further developed;
15	(2) Providing the financial incentives needed to foster the
16	long-term development of the digital medium and traditional film industry in
17	Arkansas by:
18	(A) Recognizing that similar incentives in surrounding
19	states have been a catalyst for unprecedented economic growth within those
20	<u>states;</u>
21	(B) Recognizing that to create an effective mechanism for
22	the sustained growth of the film industry in Arkansas will require the
23	passage of modern legislation that establishes a film production incentive
24	program that is not only competitive but also uniquely attractive to specific
25	types of projects and production companies;
26	(C) Recognizing a successfully cultivated film industry
27	will create a sector of high technology in Arkansas, a much needed infusion
28	of capital into areas of the state that may be economically depressed, and
29	offer high paying, knowledge-based and skilled labor employment opportunities
30	to Arkansans; and
31	(D) Recognizing that the temporary revenue loss to seed
32	the initial growth will be more than offset by the film and digital content
33	industry's total value added to the Arkansas economy and direct offsets
34	through the state and local taxes collected on economic activity generated by
35	the industry;
36	(3) Allowing Arkansas to once again become competitive with

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1	surrounding states that offer financial incentives to the film and digital
2	content production industry;
3	(4) Recognizing that currently there is a significant brain
4	drain out of the state as creative talent native to Arkansas and those
5	educated in our higher education system are forced to leave Arkansas to
6	pursue careers in the film & digital content industry;
7	(5) Creating a vibrant film and digital content industry in
, 8	Arkansas will be essential in order to retain Arkansas's highly educated and
9	creative individuals who want to pursue a career in this field including
10	without limitation:
11	(A) Individuals educated with a specific focus in the film
12	and media entertainment industry;
13	(B) Graduates of the film school programs at Arkansas
14	State University and the University of Central Arkansas; and
15	(C) Individuals who have been trained to a very high level
16	of proficiency in digital technology, specifically participants of the
17	nationally renowned EAST Initiative and My Community Program; and
18	(6)(A) Targeting film and digital content projects with budgets
19	between seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) and twenty million dollars
20	(\$20,000,000)will allow Arkansas to take advantage of the federal tax
21	incentive offered to American film projects of that size in the American Jobs
22	Creation Act of 2004.
23	(B)(i) Establishing an incentive program that benefits
24	film productions within the range specified in subdivision (a)(6)(A) of this
25	section will allow Arkansas to be attractive to the overwhelming majority of
26	films being produced every year.
27	(ii) The low threshold of seventy-five thousand
28	dollars (\$75,000) for qualification will allow Arkansas to be uniquely
29	attractive to low-budget films like documentaries and other independent
30	projects.
31	(iii) It is important to note that these financial
32	incentives are available to any qualifying projects but the vast majority of
33	projects fall within the target range.
34	(iv) Aiming to develop and attract these size
35	projects will provide Arkansans with a better opportunity to achieve steady
36	employment in the fields of film and digital content production and post-

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1	producti on.
2	(v) It is essential to provide financial incentives
3	for post-production projects, so as to further develop the entire film and
4	digital content industry.
5	(b) The General Assembly finds that:
6	<u>(1)(A) Arkansas's natural beauty and diverse topography provide</u>
7	<u>a variety of excellent settings from which the film and digital content</u>
8	industry might choose locations for production.
9	(B) In addition, the low cost of living, low cost of
10	labor, and easy accessibility make Arkansas a natural choice from a financial
11	standpoint for potential production companies.
12	(C) With the implementation of an effective film incentive
13	program, Arkansas will be a uniquely attractive location for the film and
14	<u>digital content industry.</u>
15	<u>(2)(A) Due to the exceptional qualities of the state in terms of</u>
16	<u>natural settings, availability of labor, materials, climate, and hospitality</u>
17	of its people, several successful motion pictures have been filmed in
18	Arkansas.
19	(B) One (1) of the major reasons these projects were
20	produced in Arkansas was because of the Motion Picture Incentive Act of 1983,
21	<u>§ 24-2-201, et seq., that was one (1) of the first incentives offered to the</u>
22	motion picture industry and allowed the state and motion picture industry to
23	develop a strong partnership.
24	(3)(A) The multiplier effect of the infusion of capital
25	resulting from the production of film and digital content serves to stimulate
26	economic activity beyond that immediately apparent during production or post-
27	production.
28	(B) Other economic activities that tend to come along with
29	this industry include tourism, new local residents, new local industries, and
30	marketing and advertising opportunities.
31	
32	<u>15-4-3303. Definitions.</u>
33	<u>As used in this subchapter:</u>
34	(1) "Below-the-line employment" means employment in a state-
35	certified production except for screenwriters, producers, directors, and
36	principal_actors;

1	(2)(A) "Film and digital content" means video images or other
2	visual media entertainment content.
3	(B) "Film and digital content" includes without
4	<u>limitation:</u>
5	(i) Any format of digital media created primarily
6	<u>for distribution or exhibition to the general public;</u>
7	<u>(ii) Any trailer, pilot, video teaser, or demo</u>
8	created primarily to stimulate the sale, marketing, promotion, or
9	exploitation of future investment in either a product or a qualified
10	production by any means and media in any digital media format, a film, or a
11	videotape, if the program meets all the underlying criteria of a qualified
12	production;
13	<u>(iii) Commercials;</u>
14	<u>(iv) Documentaries;</u>
15	(v) Infomercials;
16	<u>(vi) Interactive games;</u>
17	(vii) Interactive television;
18	<u>(viii) Long-form;</u>
19	<u>(ix) Mini-series;</u>
20	(x) Motion pictures;
21	(xi) Music videos and interstitials television
22	programming;
23	(xii) Series;
24	(xiii) Specials; and
25	(xiv) Video games;
26	(3) "Film Office" means the division of the Arkansas Department
27	of Economic Development charged with the responsibility of promoting and
28	assisting the digital content industry in Arkansas;
29	(4) "Financial institution" means any bank or savings and loan
30	association in the state that is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance
31	Corporation;
32	(5)(A) "Post-production" means a final stage in the production
33	of digital content occurring after the action has been filmed or videotaped
34	and typically involving editing and the addition of soundtracks.
35	(B) "Post-production" includes without limitation,
36	editing, music, soundtracks, special effects, and credits;

1	(6) "Post-production costs" means all expenditures clearly and
2	demonstrably incurred in the state in the post-production phase of a state-
3	<u>certified production;</u>
4	(7)(A) "Production" means the process of producing any type of
5	entertainment content including without limitation:
6	(i) Any format of digital media created primarily for
7	<u>distribution or exhibition to the general public;</u>
8	<u>(ii) Any trailer, pilot, video teaser, or demo created</u>
9	primarily to stimulate the sale, marketing, promotion, or exploitation of
10	future investment in either a product or a qualified production by any means
11	<u>and media in any digital media format, film, or videotape, if the program</u>
12	meets all the underlying criteria of a qualified production;
13	<u>(iii) Commercials;</u>
14	<u>(iv) Documentaries;</u>
15	(v) Infomercials;
16	<u>(vi) Interactive games;</u>
17	(vii) Interactive television;
18	<u>(viii) Long-form;</u>
19	<u>(ix) Mini-series;</u>
20	(x) Motion pictures;
21	(xi) Music videos and interstitials television
22	programming,
23	(xii) Series;
24	(xiii) Specials; and
25	(xiv) Video games.
26	(B) "Production" does not include:
27	(i) Any ongoing program created primarily as news
28	reports, weather reports, or financial market reports; or
29	(ii) Any production containing any material or
30	performance that is obscene;
31	(8) "Production company" means a corporation, partnership,
32	limited liability company, or other business entity engaged in the business
33	of producing qualified productions on a one-time or ongoing basis and
34	qualified by the Secretary of the State to engage in business in the state;
35	(9)(A) "Qualified production costs" means all expenditures
36	clearly and demonstrably incurred in the state in the development,

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1	preproduction, production, or post-production of a qualified production,
2	including the costs of optioning or purchasing intellectual property
3	including without limitation, books, scripts, music, or trademarks relating
4	to the development or purchase of a script, screenplay, or format, if:
5	(i) The intellectual property was produced primarily
6	in the state of Arkansas or the creator of the intellectual property is a
7	resident of Arkansas;
8	(ii) At least seventy-five percent (75%) of the
9	subsequent film or digital content is produced in the state of Arkansas; and
10	(iii) The production expenses or costs for the
11	optioning or purchasing are less than twenty-five per cent (25%)of the
12	production expenses or costs incurred in the state.
13	(B) "Qualified production costs" include all expenditures
14	generally associated with optioning or purchasing intellectual property,
15	including option money, agent fees and attorney fees relating to the
16	transaction, but does not include any deferrals, deferments, royalties,
17	profit participation or recourse or non-recourse loans that the eligible
18	production company may negotiate in order to obtain the rights to the
19	intellectual property.
20	(C) "Qualified production costs" does not include
21	optioning or purchasing any intellectual property that does not expressly
22	adhere to the guidelines established under this subchapter.
23	(D) "Qualified production costs" does not include:
24	<u>(i) Media buys, promotional events or gifts, or</u>
25	public relations associated with the promotion or marketing of any qualified
26	production;
27	(ii) Deferred, leveraged, or profit participation
28	costs relating to any personnel associated with any aspects of the
29	production, including without limitation, producer fees, director fees,
30	talent fees and writer fees;
31	(iii) Costs relating to the transfer of the
32	production tax credits; or
33	<u>(iv) Any amounts paid to persons or businesses as a</u>
34	result of participation of the person or business in profits from the
35	exploitation of the qualified production;
36	(10) "Resident" means a natural person and includes for the

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1	purpose of determining eligibility for the tax incentive under this
2	subchapter any person domiciled in the State of Arkansas and any other person
3	who maintains a permanent place of abode within the state and spends in the
4	aggregate at least six (6) months of the taxable year within the state; and
5	(11) "State-certified production" means a qualified production
6	produced by an eligible production company that is:
7	(i) In compliance with rules promulgated under this
8	subchapter;
9	(ii) Authorized by the Department of Economic Development
10	to conduct business in this state, and
11	(iii) Has been approved by the department as qualifying
12	for a production tax credit under this subchapter.
13	
14	
15	<u>15-4-3304. Registration required.</u>
16	(a) A production company that plans to operate within the State of
17	Arkansas shall register with the Film Office before commencing production.
18	(b) Upon registration and signing a financial incentive agreement, the
19	production company shall agree to include Arkansas's name in the production's
20	credits, unless the state prefers not to be acknowledged.
21	
22	<u>15-4-3305. The Arkansas 20/20 Film Production Tax Credit.</u>
23	(a) The incentive program under this section requires that a
24	potentially eligible production company submits an application and a project
25	plan to the Film Office before incurring production expenses or costs and
26	before hiring new employees associated with the proposed production.
27	<u>(b)(1) The Arkansas 20/20 Film Production Tax Credit is a strategic</u>
28	incentive to recruit significant film projects to Arkansas and to secure the
29	extraordinary in-state capital investments associated with these projects.
30	(2) The tax credit under this section is created to alleviate
31	<u>certain financial impacts and to encourage a production company to maximize</u>
32	in-state expenditures with specific emphasis on the employment of Arkansas
33	<u>residents.</u>
34	<u>(c)(1) Upon approval of an application by the Department of Economic</u>
35	Development, a qualifying production company shall be eligible for an
36	Arkansas income tax credit of twenty percent (20%) with no cap per production

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1	on all qualified production costs in connection with the production of the
2	state-certified production.
3	(2) An additional credit of fifteen percent (15%) will be
4	granted for payroll of below-the-line employees who are full time residents
5	of Arkansas.
6	(d) To qualify for this credit, a production company shall spend at
7	least seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) within a six (6) month period
8	in connection with the production of one (1) state-certified production as
9	<u>set forth in § 15-4-3303.</u>
10	<u>(e)(1)(A) This section does not create a per production limit on the</u>
11	amount of tax incentive credit.
12	(B) However, there is established an annual cap of ten million
13	dollars (\$10,000,000) for all incentives under this subchapter.
14	(2) The incentives will be issued on a first-come first-serve
15	basi s.
16	<u>(f)(1) A tax credit allowed under this section may be sold, assigned,</u>
17	or otherwise transferred, in whole or in part, to one (1) or more taxpayers,
18	and the taxpayers may claim the credit only for an income year in which the
19	production company would have been eligible to claim the tax credit.
20	(2)(A) The tax credit shall not offset more than fifty percent
21	<u>(50%) of an taxpayer's state tax liability.</u>
22	(B) However, any unused tax credits may be carried forward
23	for three (3) years beyond the year in which the tax credits were earned or
24	until exhausted, whichever occurs first.
25	(3)(A) The production company shall make application to the
26	department for the sale of credits.
27	(B) Upon approval by the Department of Economic
28	Development, any sale of tax credits through this incentive shall be fully
29	documented by the Department of Economic Development and the documentation
30	shall be transmitted to the Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and
31	Administration.
32	(C) The buyer of the tax credit shall be subject to the
33	same provisions for carry forward of the tax credits as the production
34	company that originally earned the credits.
35	
36	<u>15-4-3306. The Arkansas 20/20 Post-Production Tax Credit.</u>

1	(a) The Arkansas 20/20 Post-Production Tax Credit is offered to assist
2	production companies with qualified post-production expenses or other costs
3	incurred exclusively during post-production.
4	(b) The tax credit is created to alleviate certain financial impacts
5	and to encourage the production company to maximize in-state expenditures
6	with specific emphasis on the employment of Arkansas residents in the post-
7	production phase.
8	(c)(1) Upon approval of the application by the Arkansas Department of
9	Economic Development, a qualifying production company shall be eligible for
10	an Arkansas income tax credit of twenty percent (20%) with no cap per
11	production on all qualified production costs in connection with the post-
12	production of a state-certified production.
13	(2) An additional credit of fifteen percent (15%) shall be
14	granted for payroll of below-the-line employees who are full-time residents
15	of Arkansas.
16	(d) To qualify for the tax credit under this section, a production
17	<u>company shall spend at least seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) within a</u>
18	six-month period in connection with the production of one (1) state-certified
19	production as set forth in § 15-4-3303.
20	<u>(e)(1)(A) This section does not create a per production limit on the</u>
21	amount of tax incentive credit.
22	(B) However, there is established an annual cap of ten
23	million dollars (\$10,000,000) for all incentives under this subchapter.
24	(2) The incentives will be issued on a first-come first-serve
25	basi s.
26	(f)(1) A tax credit allowed under this subsection may be sold,
27	assigned, or otherwise transferred, in whole or in part, to one (1) or more
28	tax payers, if the taxpayers may claim the credit only for an income year in
29	which the production company would have been eligible to claim the tax
30	<u>credi t.</u>
31	(2)(A) The tax credit shall not offset more than fifty percent
32	<u>(50%) of an taxpayer's state tax liability.</u>
33	(B) However, any unused tax credits may be carried forward
34	for three (3) years beyond the year in which the tax credits were earned or
35	until exhausted, whichever occurs first.
36	(3)(A) The production company shall make application to the

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1	Department of Economic Development for the sale of credits.
2	(B) Upon approval by the Department of Economic
3	Development, any sale of tax credits through this incentive shall be fully
4	documented by the Department of Economic Development and the documentation
5	shall be transmitted to the Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and
6	<u>Administration.</u>
7	(C) The buyer of the tax credit shall be subject to the
8	same provisions for carry forward of the tax credits as the production
9	company that originally earned the credits.
10	
11	15-4-3307. Resident film investment incentive.
12	(a) A resident of the State of Arkansas who makes an investment in a
13	state-certified production shall be eligible for a personal state income tax
14	<u>credi t.</u>
15	(b)(1) The tax credit created in subsection (a) of this section may
16	only be used for individual state income tax relief and only for an Arkansas
17	<u>taxpayer who has been a full-time resident of the State of Arkansas for two</u>
18	(2) or more years before the commencement of the state-certified production.
19	<u>(2) An Arkansas resident who invests in a state certified</u>
20	production shall earn the tax credit at the time of the investment in the
21	state-certified production.
22	(c) For a state-certified production approved by the Arkansas
23	<u>Department of Economic Development, if the total base investment is greater</u>
24	than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), each taxpayer shall be allowed
25	a tax credit of twenty percent (20%) of the investment made by the taxpayer.
26	(d) The tax credit created under subsection (a) of this section:
27	(1) Is not transferable; and
28	(2) Shall be:
29	(A) Allowed against the income tax for the taxable period
30	in which the credit is earned; or
31	(B) Carried forward for not more than three (3) succeeding
32	tax years.
33	<u>(e) All tax credits earned under this section shall be subject to and</u>
34	reckoned against the annual cap for all incentives established in §§ 15-4-
35	<u>3305 and 15-4-3306.</u>
36	

1	<u>15-4-3308. Arkansas Future Filmmaker's Fund.</u>
2	(a)(1) There is established the "Arkansas Future Filmmaker's Fund".
3	(2) The Arkansas Future Filmmaker's Fund is an unincorporated
4	association with the sole purpose of providing additional resources to the
5	Film Office for education, training, marketing, and promotion associated with
6	film and digital content production or post-production, or both that is
7	performed in Arkansas.
8	(b)(1) The fund shall:
9	(A) File articles of organization with the office of the
10	Secretary of State; and
11	(B) Provide all requisite information to qualify under the
12	Internal Revenue Code as a 501(c)(3) corporation.
13	(2) The fund shall be created and perpetuated exclusively by
14	funds from the private sector in Arkansas.
15	(3) Contributions to the fund shall qualify as charitable
16	contributions under § 26-51-419 as a deduction from an individual's adjusted
17	gross income, including Arkansas income tax under § 26-51-403(b).
18	
19	15-4-3309. Application for tax incentive.
19 20	<u>15-4-3309. Application for tax incentive.</u> <u>(a)(1) A production company that desires to take advantage of the tax</u>
20	(a)(1) A production company that desires to take advantage of the tax
20 21	(a)(1) A production company that desires to take advantage of the tax incentives under this subchapter shall submit to the Department of Economic
20 21 22	(a)(1) A production company that desires to take advantage of the tax incentives under this subchapter shall submit to the Department of Economic Development an application and provide an estimate of total expenditures to
20 21 22 23	(a)(1) A production company that desires to take advantage of the tax incentives under this subchapter shall submit to the Department of Economic Development an application and provide an estimate of total expenditures to be made in Arkansas in connection with the production.
20 21 22 23 24	(a) (1) A production company that desires to take advantage of the tax incentives under this subchapter shall submit to the Department of Economic Development an application and provide an estimate of total expenditures to be made in Arkansas in connection with the production. (2) The application and estimate of expenditures shall be filed
20 21 22 23 24 25	(a) (1) A production company that desires to take advantage of the tax incentives under this subchapter shall submit to the Department of Economic Development an application and provide an estimate of total expenditures to be made in Arkansas in connection with the production. (2) The application and estimate of expenditures shall be filed with the Film Office and approved as eligible for the tax incentive under
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	(a) (1) A production company that desires to take advantage of the tax incentives under this subchapter shall submit to the Department of Economic Development an application and provide an estimate of total expenditures to be made in Arkansas in connection with the production. (2) The application and estimate of expenditures shall be filed with the Film Office and approved as eligible for the tax incentive under this subchapter before the commencement of production in Arkansas.
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	(a) (1) A production company that desires to take advantage of the tax incentives under this subchapter shall submit to the Department of Economic Development an application and provide an estimate of total expenditures to be made in Arkansas in connection with the production. (2) The application and estimate of expenditures shall be filed with the Film Office and approved as eligible for the tax incentive under this subchapter before the commencement of production in Arkansas. (b) (1) After each production company submits an application, the
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	(a) (1) A production company that desires to take advantage of the tax incentives under this subchapter shall submit to the Department of Economic Development an application and provide an estimate of total expenditures to be made in Arkansas in connection with the production. (2) The application and estimate of expenditures shall be filed with the Film Office and approved as eligible for the tax incentive under this subchapter before the commencement of production in Arkansas. (b) (1) After each production company submits an application, the Department of Economic Development shall sign a financial incentive agreement
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	(a) (1) A production company that desires to take advantage of the tax incentives under this subchapter shall submit to the Department of Economic Development an application and provide an estimate of total expenditures to be made in Arkansas in connection with the production. (2) The application and estimate of expenditures shall be filed with the Film Office and approved as eligible for the tax incentive under this subchapter before the commencement of production in Arkansas. (b) (1) After each production company submits an application, the Department of Economic Development shall sign a financial incentive agreement with each eligible production company that qualifies under this subchapter
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	(a) (1) A production company that desires to take advantage of the tax incentives under this subchapter shall submit to the Department of Economic Development an application and provide an estimate of total expenditures to be made in Arkansas in connection with the production. (2) The application and estimate of expenditures shall be filed with the Film Office and approved as eligible for the tax incentive under this subchapter before the commencement of production in Arkansas. (b) (1) After each production company submits an application, the Department of Economic Development shall sign a financial incentive agreement with each eligible production company that qualifies under this subchapter and is approved by the Department of Economic Development.
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	(a) (1) A production company that desires to take advantage of the tax incentives under this subchapter shall submit to the Department of Economic Development an application and provide an estimate of total expenditures to be made in Arkansas in connection with the production. (2) The application and estimate of expenditures shall be filed with the Film Office and approved as eligible for the tax incentive under this subchapter before the commencement of production in Arkansas. (b) (1) After each production company submits an application, the Department of Economic Development shall sign a financial incentive agreement with each eligible production company that qualifies under this subchapter and is approved by the Department of Economic Development. (2) The financial incentive agreement shall:
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32	(a) (1) A production company that desires to take advantage of the tax incentives under this subchapter shall submit to the Department of Economic Development an application and provide an estimate of total expenditures to be made in Arkansas in connection with the production. (2) The application and estimate of expenditures shall be filed with the Film Office and approved as eligible for the tax incentive under this subchapter before the commencement of production in Arkansas. (b) (1) After each production company submits an application, the Department of Economic Development shall sign a financial incentive agreement with each eligible production company that qualifies under this subchapter and is approved by the Department of Economic Development. (2) The financial incentive agreement shall: (A) Be the primary document setting forth:
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33	(a) (1) A production company that desires to take advantage of the tax incentives under this subchapter shall submit to the Department of Economic Development an application and provide an estimate of total expenditures to be made in Arkansas in connection with the production. (2) The application and estimate of expenditures shall be filed with the Film Office and approved as eligible for the tax incentive under this subchapter before the commencement of production in Arkansas. (b) (1) After each production company submits an application, the Department of Economic Development shall sign a financial incentive agreement with each eligible production company that qualifies under this subchapter and is approved by the Department of Economic Development. (2) The financial incentive agreement shall: (A) Be the primary document setting forth: (i) The benefits to be received; and

1	verify compliance with this subchapter.
2	(3) The financial incentive agreement shall specify the:
3	(A) Effective date of the agreement;
4	(B) Terms of the agreement that shall be calculated from
5	the date the agreement is signed by the production company and the Arkansas
6	Department of Economic Development;
7	(C) Incentive the production company may qualify for;
8	(D) Investment threshold requirements necessary to qualify
9	for eligibility;
10	(E) Eligible production company's responsibilities for
11	certifying eligibility requirements; and
12	(F) Approved production company's responsibilities for
13	failure to meet or maintain eligibility requirements.
14	(c) At the time the production company registers and provides the
15	estimate of expenditures to the Film Office, the production company shall
16	also designate a member or representative to work with the Film Office and
17	the Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and Administration on the
18	reporting of expenditures and on other information necessary to receive a tax
19	incentive credit under this subchapter.
20	<u>(d)(1) No later than ninety (90) days after the last production</u>
21	expenses or costs are incurred in the production of a qualified production,
22	an eligible production company shall:
23	(A) Apply to the Department of Economic Development for a
24	production tax credit certificate; and
25	(B) Provide with the application a final expenditure
26	report providing the information as the Department of Economic Development
27	may require concerning the amount of the company's production expenses or
28	<u>costs.</u>
29	(2)(A) The final expenditure report shall include without
30	limitation:
31	(i) To be eligible for the tax incentive under this
32	subchapter, documentation that all payments including all payroll payments
33	have been made from a checking account from any Arkansas financial
34	institution;
35	(ii) Receipts showing direct cash payments by the
36	<u>production company to Arkansas vendors, businesses, or citizens hired as cast</u>

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1	or crew, if the sum of the cash payments does not exceed forty percent (40%)
2	<u>of the total verifiable expenditures;</u>
3	<u>(iii) Receipts showing per diem expenditures by the</u>
4	<u>cast or crew, or both for Lodging; and</u>
5	(iv) Other expenditure reports deemed necessary by
6	the Revenue Division to ensure compliance with this subchapter.
7	(E) Payments for penalties or fines, payments to non-
8	profit organizations, and payments to federal and state entities that do not
9	pay State taxes are to be excluded from the final expenditure report.
10	<u>(e)(1)(A) All qualifying payments for salaries or wages shall be</u>
11	eligible for the tax credits under this subchapter.
12	(B) However, all wage and salary payments shall be:
13	(i) Reported to the Revenue Division; and
14	(ii) Subject to state and local income taxes of the
15	state of Arkansas.
16	(2)(A) The Arkansas employment credit entitles a state-certified
17	production to an additional tax credit for employing full-time residents of
18	Arkansas.
19	(B) The Arkansas employment credit grants an additional
20	credit of fifteen percent (15%) for the aggregate payroll of salaries and
21	wages to Arkansas residents who are employed in below-the-line employment
22	positions of the state-certified production.
23	(C) The Arkansas employment tax credit shall only extend
24	<u>to below-the-line employment positions as defined in § 15-4-3303.</u>
25	(D) Any salary for an employee whose salary is equal to or
26	greater than one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) shall be excluded
27	from eligibility for either tax credit.
28	<u>(f)(1) If a production company hires a payroll service company to</u>
29	handle the payroll of a production, the payroll payments otherwise allowable
30	<u>shall be allowed as eligible expenditures if:</u>
31	(A) Payments made by the production company to the payroll
32	<u>service company are paid through an Arkansas financial institution account;</u>
33	and
34	(B) All eligible income payments to employees and
35	independent contractors done through the payroll service company are subject
36	<u>to Arkansas state and Local income taxes.</u>

1	(2) Failure to file the expenditure report within ninety (90)
2	days after the last production expenses or costs are incurred may result in a
3	delay in the disbursement of the tax incentive benefit under §§ 15-4-3305 and
4	<u>15-4-3306.</u>
5	(g)(1) The final expenditure report and all qualified production costs
6	shall be subject to an audit by an outside certified public accountant
7	licensed in the State of Arkansas.
8	(2) The eligible production company shall be responsible for
9	paying all fees associated with the audit and final certification.
10	(h)(1) If the Department of Economic Development determines that the
11	company is eligible to be issued a production tax credit certificate, the
12	Department of Economic Development shall enter on the certificate the amount
13	of production expenses or costs that has been established to the satisfaction
14	of the Department of Economic Development, and the amount of the company's
15	credit under this subchapter.
16	(2) The Department of Economic Development shall provide a copy
17	of the certificate to the Department of Finance and Administration.
18	
19	15-4-3310. Sexually explicit productions.
20	Qualified films do not include sexually explicit productions as defined
21	in 18 U.S.C. § 2257, as it existed on January 1, 2007.
22	
23	<u>15-4-3311. Penal ti es.</u>
24	(a) A production company that intends to apply for the tax incentives
25	under § 15-4-3305 or § 15-4-3306, or both, but fails to comply with § 15-4-
26	3304 may be enjoined from engaging in production activities in the State of
27	Arkansas by any court of competent jurisdiction until the requirements of §
28	<u>15-4-3304 are met.</u>
29	(b) A production company that intends to apply for the tax incentives
30	under § 15-4-3305 or § 15-4-3306, or both, but fails to comply with all
31	provisions of this subchapter may be denied any future application for
32	participation in the incentive program under this subchapter and shall be
33	subject to penalty in accordance with applicable state or federal law or
34	both.
35	
36	<u>15-4-3312. Sunset.</u>

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1	The opportunity for a tax incentive under § 15-4-3305 and § 15-4-3306
2	expires on June 30, 2017.
3	
4	<u>15-4-3313. Rules.</u>
5	The Arkansas Department of Economic Development shall promulgate
6	appropriate rules to implement the intent and purposes of this subchapter and
7	to prevent abuse.
8	
9	SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
10	General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the incentives afforded by
11	this subchapter to the digital content industry can serve to stimulate the
12	economy of the area in which production and post-production is performed; and
13	that the incentives have a multiplier effect, in terms of economic
14	development, in the locality of the production and statewide; and that tax
15	revenues generated by the activities of digital content production and post-
16	production more than offset the revenue lost through the incentives provided
17	by this subchapter. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act
18	being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health,
19	and safety shall become effective on:
20	(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
21	(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
22	the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
23	bill; or
24	(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
25	overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.
26	
27	/s/ Saunders
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