1			
2	85th General Assembly A Bill		
3	Regular Session, 2005	SENATE BILL 92	22
4			
5	By: Senator T. Smith		
6			
7			
8	For An Act To Be Enti		
9	AN ACT TO CREATE THE MOTION PICTUR		
10	·		
11	ACT OF 1997; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE	S.	
12			
13		GDNMT UD	
14			
15		ON	
16 17			
17 18			
19		TE OF ARKANSAS.	
20		II OF ARRANDAD.	
21	SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapte	r 4 is amended to add an	
22	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
23	•		
24		ed as the "Motion Picture	
25			
26			
27	15-4-3102. Legislative intent.		
28	The General Assembly finds that:		
29	(1) The Motion Picture Incentive Ac	t of 1997 is no longer an	
30	attractive incentive to encourage the filming of	motion picture productions	
31	in the State of Arkansas;		
32	(2) Numerous states have enacted leg	gislation to promote the	
33	filming of motion pictures and have provided inc	entives more lucrative than	
34	those offered by this state;		
35	(3) In order to take advantage of the	ne many attributes that make	
36	Arkansas a viable location for filming, this sta	te must offer a competitive	

Т	incentive for motion picture production companies to bring their projects to
2	Arkansas;
3	(4) In order to sustain the development of the motion picture
4	industry in Arkansas, this state must offer an incentive that provides an
5	inducement for the industry to return to Arkansas repeatedly and to make
6	long-term investments in the state to build a respectable motion picture
7	industry within the state;
8	(5) At the 2004 Arkansas Venture Forum, the Milken Institute
9	noted that among high tech industries the motion picture industry had the
10	fourth highest growth rate of all high tech industries;
11	(6) Arkansas has a long history with the motion picture industry
12	and has provided a great number of native Arkansans with the opportunity to
13	work in this industry and to distinguish themselves within their respective
14	areas of this growing field; and
15	(7) In order to build an industry that helps to keep our
16	talented Arkansans at home, the Motion Picture Incentive Act of 2005 will
17	encourage motion picture companies to return to the state to take advantage
18	of the graduated approach to the incentives offered and to provide a basis
19	upon which capital investment can be made in the state to secure a growing
20	share of this consistent market.
21	
22	15-4-3103. Definitions.
23	As used in this subchapter:
24	(1) "Eligible expenditures" means, with the exception of § 15-4-
25	3105(f), all expenditures occurring within this state to Arkansas residents
26	or Arkansas vendors including:
27	(A) Per diem payments to Arkansas cast and crew;
28	(B) Catering services;
29	(C) Location expenses;
30	(D) Rental car payments;
31	(E) Location filming expenses;
32	(F) Preproduction expenses;
33	(G) Postproduction expenses; and
34	(H) Other expenses necessary to produce a motion picture
35	in this state;
36	(2) "Financial institution" means any bank or savings and loan

1	in this state that carries Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or Federal
2	Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation insurance;
3	(3) "Key production personnel" means:
4	(A) The director of the project;
5	(B) The executive producer of the project;
6	(C) The producer of the project; and
7	(D) The screenwriter of the project;
8	(4) "Motion picture production company" means a company engaged
9	in the business of producing motion pictures intended for a theatrical
10	release or for television viewing and that receives at least seventy-five
11	percent (75%) of its revenues from outside of Arkansas;
12	(5)(A) "Project" means the start-to-finish production of:
13	(i) One (1) feature film;
14	(ii) Music videos;
15	(iii) One (1) or more documentaries;
16	(iv) One (1) or more episodic television shows; and
17	(v) Commercial advertising.
18	(B) "Project" means the production of the items in
19	subdivision (5)(A) of this section created for national distribution; and
20	(6) "Resident" means a natural person and includes any person
21	domiciled in the State of Arkansas and any other person who maintains a
22	permanent place of abode within this state and spends in the aggregate more
23	than six (6) months of the taxable year within this state.
24	
25	15-4-3104. Registration required.
26	Any motion picture production company that intends to take advantage of
27	the incentives offered by this subchapter shall register with the Department
28	of Economic Development prior to the commencement of filming.
29	
30	15-4-3105. Application for rebate.
31	(a) Any motion picture production company that desires to take
32	advantage of the investment incentive under this subchapter shall submit an
33	application to the Department of Economic Development on forms provided by
34	the department and provide:
35	(1) An estimate of the total expenditures to be made in Arkansas
36	in connection with the filming or production of the project itemized by

2	(2) A copy of the full script of the project; and
3	(3) The estimated number of shoot days in Arkansas.
4	(b) The application and estimate of expenditures shall be filed with
5	the department prior to the commencement of filming in Arkansas.
6	(c) At the time of filing the application and estimate of
7	expenditures, the motion picture production company shall designate a
8	representative of the company to work with the department and the Revenue
9	Division of the Department of Finance and Administration on the reporting of
10	expenditures and other information necessary for this incentive.
11	(d) In order to be eligible for this incentive, payments for eligible
12	expenditures shall be made from a checking account with a financial
13	institution located in Arkansas.
14	(e) If a motion picture production company hires a payroll service
15	company to handle the payroll of a project, the payroll payments shall be
16	allowed as eligible expenditures:
17	(1) If the payments made by the motion picture production
18	company to the payroll service company are paid through an account with a
19	financial institution located in Arkansas; or
20	(2) If the payroll checks issued by the payroll service company
21	are drawn on a bank or entity that is located outside the State of Arkansas,
22	the out-of-state bank or other entity guarantees payment of the checks at a
23	financial institution located in Arkansas.
24	(f) If a motion picture production company hires a food catering
25	service company that is outside the State of Arkansas, payments made by the
26	out-of-state food catering service to food businesses located in Arkansas
27	shall be allowed as eligible expenditures if:
28	(1) Actual receipts or copies of invoices from such food
29	businesses located in Arkansas are filed with the final expenditure report;
30	and on the same of
31	(2) Payments made by the motion picture production company to
32	the out-of-state food catering service company are paid through an account
33	with a financial institution located in Arkansas.
34	(g) In order to be eligible for this rebate a motion picture
35	production company:
36	(1) Shall expend a minimum of five hundred thousand dollars

l category of expenditure;

1	(\$500,000) on a project in a six-month period beginning on the date the
2	motion picture production company files an application for incentives with
3	the Department of Economic Development; or
4	(2) Shall expend a minimum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000)
5	on a project in a twelve-month period beginning on the date the motion
6	picture production company files an application for incentives with the
7	department.
8	(h) The application for the rebate shall include the names of key
9	production personnel involved in the motion picture production company who
10	may decide to bring other motion picture projects to this state and qualify
11	for the graduated investment incentive authorized in § 15-4-3106.
12	(i)(1) In order to qualify for the rebate authorized by this
13	subchapter, the motion picture production company must file a final
14	expenditure report following the payment of all eligible expenditures.
15	(2) The expenditure report must clearly state the date, amount,
16	and to whom the payment was made.
17	(3) Only payments to Arkansas residents or vendors will be
18	allowable in calculating eligible expenses for which a rebate may be issued.
19	(4) The motion picture production company must provide
20	documentation of eligible expenditures in accordance with regulations
21	promulgated by the Department of Economic Development.
22	
23	15-4-3106. Investment incentive.
24	(a) A qualifying motion picture production company making application
25	and meeting the requirements of this subchapter shall qualify for a rebate of
26	eligible expenditures as follows:
27	(1) For the first qualifying motion picture production project,
28	the motion picture production company shall receive a rebate equal to ten
29	percent (10%) of eligible expenditures;
30	(2) For the second qualifying motion picture production project,
31	the motion picture production company shall receive a rebate equal to fifteen
32	percent (15%) of eligible expenditures if:
33	(A) The second project is completed within twenty-four
34	(24) months following the receipt of the first rebate; and
35	(B) The motion picture production company has expended a
36	minimum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) on the two

1	(2) projects; and
2	(3)(A) For the third and subsequent qualifying motion picture
3	projects, the motion picture production company shall receive a rebate equal
4	to twenty percent (20%) of eligible expenditures if the third and subsequent
5	projects:
6	(i) Are completed within twelve (12) months from the
7	date the last rebate was received; and
8	(ii) The motion picture production company has
9	expended a minimum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000)
10	on each subsequent project.
11	(B) If the third or subsequent motion picture project is
12	completed within twelve (12) months from the date the last rebate was
13	received, but the motion picture production company fails to expend one
14	million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000), the motion picture
15	production company shall be eligible:
16	(i) For the ten percent (10%) rebate if it expends
17	more than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) but less than one million
18	dollars (\$1,000,000); and
19	(ii) For the fifteen percent (15%) rebate if it
20	expends more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) but less than one million
21	five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000).
22	(b) When the qualifications under this subchapter are met, the Revenue
23	Division of the Department of Finance and Administration shall issue a rebate
24	to the qualifying motion picture production company in accordance with
25	subsection (a) of this section and § 15-4-3107.
26	
27	15-4-3107. Disbursement of incentive.
28	(a) After auditing the expenditures submitted by the motion picture
29	production company and determining that the criteria of this subchapter has
30	been met, the Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and
31	Administration shall authorize the rebate under this subchapter.
32	(b) The rebate shall be paid from any available funds appropriated by
33	the General Assembly for tax refunds or rebates.
34	
35	15-4-3108. Exclusions.
36	(a) The following items are not eligible expenditures for the rebate

1	under this subchapter:
2	(1) Payments for penalties or fines;
3	(2) Payments to nonprofit institutions;
4	(3) Payments to federal and state entities that do not pay state
5	<pre>income taxes;</pre>
6	(4) Real property;
7	(5) Property, including motor vehicles or other equipment,
8	subject to assessment as personal property;
9	(6) Equipment that will be domiciled outside the State of
10	Arkansas; and
11	(7) Entertainment not directly associated with the filming of
12	the project.
13	(b) Motion picture projects that are subject to being rated "NC-17" or
14	"X" by the rating system employed by the Motion Picture Association of
15	America shall not be eligible for the benefits provided by this subchapter.
16	(c) Telethons, award shows, sports events, contests, or galas shall
17	not be eligible for the benefits provided by this subchapter.
18	
19	15-4-3109. Disclaimer.
20	The Department of Economic Development reserves the right to refuse the
21	use of Arkansas' name in the credits of any motion picture filmed or produced
22	in this state.
23	
24	15-4-3110. Audit.
25	The Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and Administration
26	may require that reported expenditures and the application for investment
27	incentive from the motion picture production company be audited to verify
28	expenditures.
29	
30	15-4-3111. Economic Development Incentive Fund.
31	(a) There is established on the books of the Treasurer of State, the
32	Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of State the "Economic
33	Development Incentive Fund".
34	(b) The fund shall consist of revenues designated for this fund by the
35	Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and Administration pursuant to
36	agreements entered into by the Department of Economic Development with

1	qualified projects by motion picture production companies.
2	
3	15-4-3112. Rules for administration.
4	The Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and Administration
5	and the Department of Economic Development shall promulgate rules necessary
6	for the administration of this subchapter.
7	
8	15-4-3113. Expiration.
9	(a) The Motion Picture Incentive Act of 2005 shall expire on June 30,
10	<u>2015.</u>
11	(b) All applications for rebates shall be filed by June 30, 2015.
12	
13	SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapter 4, Subchapter 20 is
14	repealed.
15	15-4-2001. Short title.
16	This subchapter may be referred to and cited as the "Motion Picture
17	Incentive Act of 1997".
18	
19	15-4-2002. Legislative determination.
20	It is found and determined that:
21	(1) Arkansas' natural beauty and diverse topography provides a
22	variety of excellent settings from which the motion picture industry might
23	choose a location for filming a motion picture or television program;
24	(2) Several successful motion pictures have been filmed in
25	Arkansas due to the unique qualities of the state in terms of natural
26	settings, availability of labor, materials, climate, and hospitality of its
27	<del>people;</del>
28	(3) The motion picture industry brings with it a much-needed
29	infusion of capital into areas of the state which may be economically
30	depressed;
31	(4) The multiplier effect of the infusion of capital resulting
32	from the filming of a motion picture or television program serves to
33	stimulate economic activity beyond that immediately apparent on the film set;
34	(5) Due to the distance of Arkansas from the film industry
35	center on the West Coast and due to the period of economic depression, it is
36	necessary to provide financial incentives to the film industry in order that

1	Arkansas might compete with other states for filming locations; and
2	(6) Since a significant portion of the cost of a motion picture
3	production will not be eligible for a tax incentive because portions of the
4	production are carried out in another state, this subchapter may also serve
5	as an inducement for the motion picture industry to locate operations within
6	the State of Arkansas in order to take advantage of the tax incentive
7	afforded by this subchapter.
8	
9	15-4-2003. Definitions.
10	As used in this subchapter:
11	(1) "Financial institution" means any bank or savings and loan
12	in the state which carries Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or Federal
13	Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation insurance;
14	(2) "Arkansas Department of Economic Development" means the
15	division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission charged with the
16	responsibility of promoting and assisting the motion picture industry in
17	Arkansas;
18	(3) "Motion picture production company" means a company engaged
19	in the business of producing motion pictures intended for a theatrical
20	release or for television viewing;
21	(4) "Resident" means natural persons and includes, for the
22	purpose of determining eligibility for the tax incentive provided by this
23	subchapter, any person domiciled in the State of Arkansas and any other
24	person who maintains a permanent place of abode within the state and spends
25	in the aggregate more than six (6) months of the taxable year within the
26	state; and
27	(5) "Revenue Division" means the Revenue Division of the
28	Department of Finance and Administration.
29	
30	15-4-2004. Requirement for registration.
31	Each motion picture production company which plans to film any scenes
32	within the borders of the State of Arkansas shall register with the Arkansas
33	Department of Economic Development prior to the commencement of filming.
34	
35	15-4-2005. Tax incentive.
36	(a) A qualifying production company, upon making application therefor

1 and meeting other requirements prescribed in this subchapter, shall be 2 entitled to a tax refund of one hundred percent (100%) of the tax imposed by § 26-52-301 et seg. and the Arkansas Compensating Tax Act of 1949, § 26-53-3 4 101 et seq., and paid on the purchase of property and services in Arkansas in 5 connection with the filming or production projects, or both, within Arkansas. 6 (b) To qualify, a production company must: 7 (1) Spend five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) within a six-8 month period in connection with the filming or production, or both, of one 9 (1) feature film, telefilm, music video, documentary, episodic television 10 show, or commercial advertising project; or 11 (2) Spend in excess of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) within a 12 twelve-month period in connection with the filming or production, or both, of 13 one (1) or more feature films, telefilms, music videos, documentaries, 14 episodic television shows, or commercial advertising projects. 15 16 15-4-2006. Application for tax incentive. 17 (a)(1) Any motion picture production company which desires to take advantage of the tax incentive program provided for in this subchapter shall 18 19 submit an application, along with a letter of support from the local 20 government or governments in the affected area, and provide an estimate of 21 total expenditures to be made in Arkansas in connection with the filming or 22 production, or both, of the motion picture. 23 (2) The application and estimate of expenditures shall be filed 24 with the Arkansas Department of Economic Development and approved as eligible 25 for the tax incentive provided by this subchapter prior to the commencement 26 of filming in Arkansas. 27 (b) At the time the motion picture production company registers and 28 provides the estimate of expenditures to the Arkansas Department of Economic 29 Development, it shall also designate a member or representative of the motion 30 picture production company to work with the Arkansas Economic Development 31 Commission's Motion Picture Development Office and the Revenue Division of 32 the Department of Finance and Administration on the reporting of expenditures 33 and other information necessary to take advantage of the tax incentive 34 afforded by this subchapter. 35 (c)(1)(A) Within two (2) weeks after principal photography begins, the 36 motion picture production company shall begin filing weekly expenditure

1	reports.
2	(B) Failure to file weekly expenditure reports may result
3	in a delay in the disbursement of the tax incentive benefit as provided in §
4	<del>15-4-2007.</del>
5	(2) The weekly expenditure report shall be filed in accordance
6	with, but not limited to, the following provisions:
7	(A) In order to be eligible for the tax incentive provided
8	for by this subchapter, payments shall be made from a checking account from
9	any Arkansas financial institution;
10	(B) Direct cash payments by the production company to
11	Arkansas vendors, businesses, or citizens hired as east or crew which are
12	accompanied by receipts shall be allowed provided that the sum of the cash
13	payments does not exceed forty percent (40%) of the total verifiable
14	expenditures;
15	(C) Per diem expenditures by the cast or crew, or both,
16	for lodging, when accompanied by receipts, shall be eligible expenditures;
17	(D) Expenditure reports shall include, but are not limited
18	<del>to:</del>
19	(i) Check identification number;
20	(ii) Date of payment;
21	(iii) Name of payee;
22	(iv) Address of payee;
23	(v) Amount paid;
24	(vi) Name of financial institution; and
25	(vii) Other such information as may be deemed
26	necessary by the division to ensure compliance with this subchapter;
27	(E) Payments for salaries or wages are limited to Arkansas
28	residents who filed an Arkansas income tax return in the previous tax year;
29	(F) Payments for penalties or fines, payments to nonprofit
30	organizations, and payments to federal and state entities that do not pay
31	state taxes are to be excluded;
32	(G) When a motion picture production company hires a
33	payroll service company to handle the payroll of a production, the payroll
34	payments otherwise allowable shall be allowed as eligible expenditures,
35	<del>provided:</del>
36	(i) Payments made by the motion picture production

T	company to the payroll service company are paid through an Arkansas linancia.
2	institution account; and
3	(ii) If the payroll checks issued by the payroll
4	service company are drawn on a bank or other entity which is outside the
5	State of Arkansas, the out-of-state bank or other entity guarantees payment
6	of the checks at an Arkansas financial institution;
7	(H) When a motion picture production company hires a food
8	catering service company which is outside the State of Arkansas, payments
9	otherwise allowable which are made by the out-of-state food catering service
10	to food businesses located in Arkansas shall be allowed as eligible
11	expenditures, provided:
12	(i) Actual receipts or copies of invoices from such
13	food businesses located in Arkansas are filed with the weekly expenditure
14	reports; and
15	(ii) Payments made by the motion picture production
16	company to the out-of-state food catering service company are paid through an
17	Arkansas financial institution account; and
18	(I) Preproduction and postproduction expenses, which
19	otherwise qualify, may be made from a checking account from a financial
20	institution located out of Arkansas.
21	(d) The twelve-month period and six-month period during which
22	expenditures may qualify for the tax incentive provided by this subchapter
23	begin on the date of the earliest expenditure reported.
24	(e)(1) Upon completion of filming or production, or both, in Arkansas,
25	the motion picture production company shall file an application for the tax
26	incentive afforded by this subchapter.
27	(2) The application shall include a final expenditure report
28	giving a total amount of expenditures which were made in the state in
29	connection with the filming or production, or both, of a motion picture and
30	which comply with the provisions of this subchapter.
31	(3) The motion picture production company shall provide
32	documentation for expenditures in accordance with regulations promulgated by
33	the division.
34	
35	15-4-2007. Disbursement of tax incentive.
36	(a) Upon receipt of an application for a tax refund and supporting

-	decamendation paradiant to this subshapeor, the nevenue sivilian of the
2	Department of Finance and Administration shall confirm the eligibility of the
3	applicant based on total expenditures and the amount of sales and use tax
4	paid by the applicant for which a refund is due.
5	(b) The applicant shall provide, with the application for
6	refund:
7	(1) A schedule of purchases accompanied by invoices which show
8	the property or service purchased;
9	(2) The name and location of the vendor; and
10	(3) The amount of sales or use tax paid.
11	(c) The division shall calculate the tax refund to which the applicant
12	is entitled and shall certify the tax refund to the Chief Fiscal Officer of
13	the State.
14	(d) Upon receipt of all necessary documentation to support the
15	applicant's claim for refund, the division shall certify to the Chief Fiscal
16	Officer of the State the amount to be remitted to the motion picture
17	production company within sixty (60) days of the final expenditure report.
18	(e) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall remit the tax refund
19	to the motion picture production company following receipt of the
20	certification of the amount thereof from the division. The benefit shall be
21	paid from any available funds appropriated for miscellaneous tax refunds by
22	the General Assembly.
23	
24	15-4-2008. Penalties.
25	(a) Any motion picture production company failing to comply with § 15-
26	4-2004 may be enjoined from engaging in the business of producing motion
27	pictures in the State of Arkansas by any court of competent jurisdiction
28	until the requirements of § 15-4-2004 are met.
29	(b) Any motion picture production company failing to comply with all
30	provisions of this subchapter may be denied any future application for
31	participation in this incentive program.
32	
33	15-4-2009. Disclaimer.
34	The State of Arkansas reserves the right to refuse the use of Arkansas'
35	name in the credits of any motion picture filmed or produced, or both, in the
36	<del>state.</del>

1	
2	<del>15-4-2010. Audit.</del>
3	The Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and Administration
4	may require that reported expenditures and the application for a tax
5	incentive from the motion picture production company be subjected to an audit
6	by division auditors to verify expenditures.
7	
8	15-4-2011. Sunset.
9	The opportunity for a tax incentive provided by § 15-4-2005 shall
10	expire on June 30, 2007.
11	
12	15-4-2012. Rules and regulations.
13	The Revenue Division of the Department of Finance and Administration
14	and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission shall promulgate appropriate
15	rules and regulations to carry out the intent and purposes of this subchapter
16	and to prevent abuse.
17	
18	SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
19	General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the Motion Picture Incentive
20	Act of 1997 is no longer an incentive to encourage motion picture productions
21	to be filmed in this state; that other states offer more lucrative incentives
22	than those offered by the State of Arkansas; that this state must offer a
23	competitive incentive for motion picture production companies to film their
24	projects within this state; and that this act will accomplish that purpose.
25	Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately
26	necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
27	become effective on:
28	(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
29	(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
30	the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
31	bill; or
32	(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
33	overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.
34	
35	
36	