CHAMBER ACTION

Senate House

Representative Miller offered the following:

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Amendment (with title amendment)

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Between lines 2503 and 2504, insert:

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Section 34. Paragraph (q) of subsection (5) of s. 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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1.3

212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this

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(5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE.-

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chapter.

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(q) Entertainment industry tax credit; authorization; eligibility for credits. The credits against the state sales tax authorized pursuant to s. 288.1254 shall be deducted from any sales and use tax remitted by the dealer to the department by electronic funds transfer and may only be deducted on a sales and use tax return initiated through electronic data interchange. The dealer shall separately state the credit on the electronic return. The net amount of tax due and payable must be remitted by electronic funds transfer. If the credit for the qualified expenditures is larger than the amount owed on the sales and use tax return that is eligible for the credit, the unused amount of the credit may be carried forward to a succeeding reporting period as provided in s. 288.1254(4)(e). A dealer may only obtain a credit using the method described in this subparagraph. A dealer is not authorized to obtain a credit by applying for a refund.

Section 35. Subsection (8) of section 220.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

220.02 Legislative intent.-

(8) It is the intent of the Legislature that credits against either the corporate income tax or the franchise tax be applied in the following order: those enumerated in s. 631.828, those enumerated in s. 220.191, those enumerated in s. 220.181, those enumerated in s. 220.183, those enumerated in s. 220.182, those enumerated in s. 220.1895, those enumerated in s. 220.195, those enumerated in s. 220.186,

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- those enumerated in s. 220.1845, those enumerated in s. 220.19, those enumerated in s. 220.185, those enumerated in s. 220.1875, those enumerated in s. 220.192, those enumerated in s. 220.193, those enumerated in s. 288.9916, those enumerated in s. 220.194, and those enumerated in s. 220.196.
 - Section 36. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 220.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 220.13 "Adjusted federal income" defined.-
 - (1) The term "adjusted federal income" means an amount equal to the taxpayer's taxable income as defined in subsection (2), or such taxable income of more than one taxpayer as provided in s. 220.131, for the taxable year, adjusted as follows:
 - (a) Additions.—There shall be added to such taxable income:
 - 1. The amount of any tax upon or measured by income, excluding taxes based on gross receipts or revenues, paid or accrued as a liability to the District of Columbia or any state of the United States which is deductible from gross income in the computation of taxable income for the taxable year.
 - 2. The amount of interest which is excluded from taxable income under s. 103(a) of the Internal Revenue Code or any other federal law, less the associated expenses disallowed in the computation of taxable income under s. 265 of the Internal Revenue Code or any other law, excluding 60 percent of any

amounts included in alternative minimum taxable income, as defined in s. 55(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, if the taxpayer pays tax under s. 220.11(3).

- 3. In the case of a regulated investment company or real estate investment trust, an amount equal to the excess of the net long-term capital gain for the taxable year over the amount of the capital gain dividends attributable to the taxable year.
- 4. That portion of the wages or salaries paid or incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.181. This subparagraph shall expire on the date specified in s. 290.016 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act.
- 5. That portion of the ad valorem school taxes paid or incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.182. This subparagraph shall expire on the date specified in s. 290.016 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act.
- 6. The amount taken as a credit under s. 220.195 which is deductible from gross income in the computation of taxable income for the taxable year.
- 7. That portion of assessments to fund a guaranty association incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit allowable for the taxable year.
- 8. In the case of a nonprofit corporation which holds a pari-mutuel permit and which is exempt from federal income tax as a farmers' cooperative, an amount equal to the excess of the

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gross income attributable to the pari-mutuel operations over the attributable expenses for the taxable year.

- 9. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.1895.
- 10. Up to nine percent of the eligible basis of any designated project which is equal to the credit allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.185.
- 11. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.1875. The addition in this subparagraph is intended to ensure that the same amount is not allowed for the tax purposes of this state as both a deduction from income and a credit against the tax. This addition is not intended to result in adding the same expense back to income more than once.
- 12. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.192.
- 13. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.193.
- 14. Any portion of a qualified investment, as defined in s. 288.9913, which is claimed as a deduction by the taxpayer and taken as a credit against income tax pursuant to s. 288.9916.
- 15. The costs to acquire a tax credit pursuant to s.

 288.1254(5) that are deducted from or otherwise reduce federal taxable income for the taxable year.
- 115 15.16. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year pursuant to s. 220.194.

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16.17. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under s. 220.196. The addition in this subparagraph is intended to ensure that the same amount is not allowed for the tax purposes of this state as both a deduction from income and a credit against the tax. The addition is not intended to result in adding the same expense back to income more than once.

Section 37. <u>Section 220.1899</u>, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 38. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 288.0001, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.0001 Economic Development Programs Evaluation.—The Office of Economic and Demographic Research and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) shall develop and present to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairs of the legislative appropriations committees the Economic Development Programs Evaluation.

- (2) The Office of Economic and Demographic Research and OPPAGA shall provide a detailed analysis of economic development programs as provided in the following schedule:
- (b) By January 1, 2015, and every 3 years thereafter, an analysis of the following:
- 1. The entertainment industry <u>targeted rebate and</u>

 140 <u>revolving loan financial incentive</u> program established under s.

 141 288.1254.

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- 2. The entertainment industry sales tax exemption program established under s. 288.1258.
 - 3. VISIT Florida and its programs established or funded under ss. 288.122, 288.1226, 288.12265, and 288.124.
 - 4. The Florida Sports Foundation and related programs established under ss. 288.1162, 288.11621, 288.1166, 288.1167, 288.1168, 288.1169, and 288.1171.

Section 39. Section 288.125, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.125 Definition of "entertainment industry."-For the purposes of ss. 288.1251-288.1258, the term "entertainment industry" means those persons or entities engaged in the operation of motion picture or television studios or recording studios; those persons or entities engaged in the preproduction, production, or postproduction of motion pictures, made-fortelevision movies, television programming, digital media projects, commercial advertising, music videos, or sound recordings; those persons or entities engaged in the production of live musical or theatrical productions; and those persons or entities providing products or services directly related to the preproduction, production, or postproduction of motion pictures, made-for-television movies, television programming, digital media projects, commercial advertising, music videos, or sound recordings, or live musical or theatrical productions, including, but not limited to, the broadcast industry.

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Section 40. Subsection (3) of section 288.1253, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.1253 Travel and entertainment expenses.-

(3) The Office of Film and Entertainment shall include in the annual report for the entertainment industry financial incentive program required under s. 288.1254(10) a report of the office's expenditures for the previous fiscal year. The report must consist of a summary of all travel, entertainment, and incidental expenses incurred within the United States and all travel, entertainment, and incidental expenses incurred outside the United States, as well as a summary of all successful projects that developed from such travel.

Section 41. Section 288.1254, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.1254 Entertainment industry <u>targeted rebate and revolving loan financial incentive program.</u>

- (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
- that has rebate funds tax credits allocated to it by the department based on the production's estimated qualified expenditures after analysis and approval by the Targeted Rebate Program Panel, up to the production's maximum certified amount of tax credits, by the department. The term does not include a production if its first day of principal photography or project start date in this state occurs before the production is certified by the department, unless the production spans more

than 1 fiscal year, was a certified production on its first day of principal photography or project start date in this state, and is required to submit submits an application for continuing the same production in for the subsequent fiscal year.

- (b) "Digital media project" means a production of interactive entertainment that is produced for distribution in commercial or educational markets. The term includes a video game, simulation, interactive website, digital animation, or production intended for Internet or wireless distribution, and interactive website, digital animation, and visual effects, including, but not limited to, three-dimensional movie productions and movie conversions. The term does not include a production deemed by the Office of Film and Entertainment to contain that contains content that is obscene as defined in s. 847.001.
- (c) "Florida resident" means a person who has a valid Florida driver license and has signed an affidavit confirming residency in this state, or a person who graduated from, or is currently enrolled in, a digital media or film-and-entertainment-related course of study at an institution of higher education in this state.
- (d) "Fund administrator" means a private sector organization that has entered into a contract with the department to manage and administer the Qualified Entertainment Industry Revolving Loan Fund.

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	(e)	"L	ive	musical	or	the	eatrica	al p	roductic	n"	mea:	ns a	
proje	ect	that	has	qualifi	Led	exp	penditu	ıres	greater	th	an	\$625 ,	.000
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- 1. A pre-Broadway production that, in its original or adaptive version, is produced in the state and has a presentation scheduled for Broadway's theater district in the City of New York within 12 months after its presentation in a qualified production facility in the state; or
- 2. A post-Broadway production that, in its original or adaptive version, is produced in the state and opens its national tour in a qualified production facility in the state after a presentation scheduled for Broadway's theater district in the City of New York.
- (f) "Major broadcaster" means a broadcasting organization and includes, but is not limited to, a television broadcasting network, a cable television provider, a direct broadcast satellite provider, a telecommunications company, or an Internet-based streaming or other digital media platform.
 - (g) "Office" means the Office of Film and Entertainment.
- (c) "High-impact digital media project" means a digital media project that has qualified expenditures greater than \$4.5 million.
- (d) "High-impact television series" means a production created to run multiple production seasons and having an estimated order of at least seven episodes per season and qualified expenditures of at least \$625,000 per episode.

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- (e) "Off-season certified production" means a feature film, independent film, or television series or pilot that films 75 percent or more of its principal photography days from June 1 through November 30.
- (h) (f) "Principal photography" means the filming of major or significant components of the qualified production which involve lead actors, or in the case of digital media, the majority of crew is working for and dedicated to a certified project.
- (i) "Private investment capital" means capital from private, nongovernmental funding sources which is invested with the revolving loan fund in segregated accounts.
- (j)(g) "Production" means a theatrical or direct-to-video motion picture; a made-for-television motion picture; visual effects or digital animation sequences produced in conjunction with a motion picture; a commercial; a music video; an industrial or educational film; an infomercial; a documentary film; a television pilot program; a presentation for a television pilot program; a television series, including, but not limited to, a drama, a reality show, a comedy, a soap opera, a telenovela, a game show, an awards show, or a miniseries production; a live musical or theatrical production; or a digital media project by the entertainment industry. One season of a television series is considered one production. The term does not include a weather or market program; a sporting event; a sports show; a sports news or recap show; an awards show; a

commercial; a music video; an educational or industrial production; a documentary; or a sporting event broadcast; a gala; a production that solicits funds; a home shopping program; a political program; a political documentary; political advertising; a gambling-related project or production; a concert production; a local, regional, national, or Internet-distributed-only news show; a or current-events show; a sports news or sports recap show; a pornographic production; or any production deemed obscene under chapter 847. A production may be produced on or by film, tape, or otherwise by means of a motion picture camera; electronic camera or device; tape device; computer; any combination of the foregoing; or any other means, method, or device.

(k) (h) "Production expenditures" means the costs of tangible and intangible property used for, and services performed primarily and customarily in, production, including preproduction and postproduction, but excluding costs for development, marketing, and distribution. The term includes, but is not limited to:

- 1. Wages, salaries, or other compensation paid to legal residents of this state, including amounts paid through payroll service companies, for technical and production crews, directors, producers, and performers.
- 2. Net expenditures for sound stages, backlots, production editing, digital effects, sound recordings, sets, and set construction.

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- 3. Net expenditures for rental equipment, including, but not limited to, cameras and grip or electrical equipment, and related purchases used exclusively for that production.
- 4. Up to \$300,000 of the costs of newly purchased computer software and hardware unique to the project, including servers, data processing, and visualization technologies, which are located in and used exclusively in the state for the production of digital media.
- $\underline{4.5.}$ Expenditures for meals, travel, and accommodations. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "net expenditures" means the actual amount of money a qualified production spent for equipment or other tangible personal property, after subtracting any consideration received for reselling or transferring the item after the qualified production ends, if applicable.
- 5. Up to \$150,000 of the costs of newly purchased computer software and hardware unique to a digital media project, including servers, data processing, and visualization technologies, which are located and used exclusively in this state for the production of digital media. Such costs may not exceed 5 percent of the certified production's actual qualified expenditures.
 - (1) "Production start date" means:
- 319 <u>1. For film and television, the start date of principal</u> 320 photography.

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2. For digital media, the date that project staff begin work on a digital media project after completion and approval of the project design document by the digital media company.

(m)1.(i) "Qualified expenditures" means production
expenditures incurred in this state by a qualified production in
1 fiscal year and, if the production spans more than 1 fiscal
year, qualified expenditures incurred in the next fiscal year,
for:

a.1. Goods purchased or leased from, or services, including, but not limited to, insurance costs and bonding, payroll services, and legal fees, which are provided by, a vendor or supplier in this state that is registered with the Department of State or the Department of Revenue, has a physical address other than a post office box location in this state, and employs at least one or more legal resident residents of this state on a full-time basis. This does not include rebilled goods or services provided by an in-state company from out-of-state vendors or suppliers. When services provided by the vendor or supplier include personal services or labor, only personal services or labor provided by residents of this state, evidenced by the required documentation of residency in this state, qualify.

 $\underline{\text{b.2.}}$ Payments to $\underline{\text{legal}}$ residents of this state in the form of salary, wages, or other compensation up to a maximum of $\underline{\$200,000}$ $\underline{\$400,000}$ per $\underline{\text{Florida}}$ resident $\underline{\text{unless otherwise}}$ specified in subsection (4). A completed declaration of

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residency in this state must accompany the documentation submitted to the office for reimbursement.

- c. Expenses for items other than salary, wages, and other compensation, not to exceed 50 percent of the total expenditures for salary, wages, and other compensation, are qualified expenditures. Expenses for items other than salary, wages, and other compensation which exceed this 50-percent cap are not qualified expenditures.
 - 2. The term does not include:
- a. Salary, wages, and other compensation for executives, legal staff, or management who work for the certified company or a parent company, and who work on other company business during the period the production is certified. The certified company must sign a sworn affidavit attesting that all salaries, wages, and other compensation submitted as qualified expenditures comply with this section. The submission of false information in the affidavit subjects the company to criminal prosecution under s. 837.06.
 - b. Expenditures before certification.
- c. Any one qualifying expenditure that exceeds 20 percent of the total qualifying expenditures.
- (n) "Qualified lending partner" means a financial institution, as defined in s. 655.005, selected by a fund administrator which has demonstrated capability in providing financing to television production and specialized expertise in intellectual property, tax credit programs, customary broadcast

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For a qualified production involving an event, such as an awards show, the term does not include expenditures solely associated with the event itself and not directly required by the production. The term does not include expenditures incurred before certification, with the exception of those incurred for a commercial, a music video, or the pickup of additional episodes of a high-impact television series within a single season. Under no circumstances may the qualified production include in the calculation for qualified expenditures the original purchase price for equipment or other tangible property that is later sold or transferred by the qualified production for consideration. In such cases, the qualified expenditure is the net of the original purchase price minus the consideration received upon sale or transfer.

(o) (j) "Qualified production" means a production in this state meeting the requirements of this section and the minimum qualified expenditures and requirements of the production's appropriate tier. The term does not include a production:

1. In which, for the first 2 years of the incentive $\frac{65}{10}$ percent, and thereafter, less than $\frac{65}{10}$ percent, of the positions that make up its production cast and

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below-the-line production crew <u>in film and television</u>, or, in the case of digital media projects, less than <u>80</u> 75 percent of such positions, are filled by <u>Florida legal</u> residents of this state, whose residency is demonstrated by a valid Florida driver license or other state-issued identification confirming residency, or students enrolled full-time in a film-and-entertainment-related course of study at an institution of higher education in this state;

- 2. That uses the state sales tax exemption established under s. 288.1258 for the production; or
- 3.2. That is deemed by the Office of Film and Entertainment to contain content that is contains obscene content as defined in s. 847.001(10).
- (p) (k) "Qualified production company" means a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or other legal entity engaged in producing a qualified production one or more productions in this state.
- (1) "Qualified digital media production facility" means a building or series of buildings and their improvements in which data processing, visualization, and sound synchronization technologies are regularly applied for the production of qualified digital media projects or the digital animation components of qualified productions.
- $\underline{(q)}$ "Qualified production facility" means a building or complex of buildings and their improvements and associated backlot facilities in which regular filming activity for film or

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television has occurred for a period of no less than 1 year and which contain at least one sound stage of at least 7,800 square feet, or a live musical or theatrical production facility in the state that has at least one stage, a seating capacity of 1,200 or more, dressing rooms, technical and backstage resources, storage areas, and other ancillary amenities necessary for, and at which live musical or theatrical productions are, or are intended to be, presented.

- (r) "Qualified television content" means a television series or miniseries, or made-for-television content, produced by a qualified production company that has a distribution contract with a major broadcaster, under a customary broadcaster license agreement, and that satisfies the criteria in subsection (6). The term does not include a production that is deemed by the Office of Film and Entertainment to contain content that is obscene as defined in s. 847.001.
- (s) "Revolving loan fund" means the Qualified Entertainment Industry Revolving Loan Fund.
- (n) "Regional population ratio" means the ratio of the population of a region to the population of this state. The regional population ratio applicable to a given fiscal year is the regional population ratio calculated by the Office of Film and Entertainment using the latest official estimates of population certified under s. 186.901, available on the first day of that fiscal year.

(o) "Regional tax credit ratio" means a ratio the
numerator of which is the sum of tax credits awarded to
productions in a region to date plus the tax credits certified,
but not yet awarded, to productions currently in that region and
the denominator of which is the sum of all tax credits awarded
in the state to date plus all tax credits certified, but not yet
awarded, to productions currently in the state. The regional tax
credit ratio applicable to a given year is the regional tax
credit ratio calculated by the Office of Film and Entertainment
using credit award and certification information available on
the first day of that fiscal year.

- (p) "Underutilized region" for a given state fiscal year means a region with a regional tax credit ratio applicable to that fiscal year that is lower than its regional population ratio applicable to that fiscal year. The following regions are established for purposes of making this determination:
- 1. North Region, consisting of Alachua, Baker, Bay,
 Bradford, Calhoun, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Escambia,
 Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson,
 Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Nassau,
 Okaloosa, Putnam, Santa Rosa, St. Johns, Suwannee, Taylor,
 Union, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington Counties.
- 2. Central East Region, consisting of Brevard, Flagler, Indian River, Lake, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, St. Lucie, and Volusia Counties.

- 3. Central West Region, consisting of Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Marion, Polk, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota, and Sumter Counties.
- 4. Southwest Region, consisting of Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, and Lee Counties.
- 5. Southeast Region, consisting of Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties.
- (q) "Interactive website" means a website or group of websites that includes interactive and downloadable content, and creates 25 new Florida full-time equivalent positions operating from a principal place of business located within Florida. An interactive website or group of websites must provide documentation that those jobs were created to the Office of Film and Entertainment prior to the award of tax credits. Each subsequent program application must provide proof that 25 Florida full-time equivalent positions are maintained.
 - (2) CREATION AND PURPOSE OF PROGRAM.
- (a) The entertainment industry targeted rebate and revolving loan financial incentive program is created within the Office of Film and Entertainment. The purpose of this program is to encourage the use of this state as a site for filming, for the digital production of films, and to develop and sustain the state's long-established workforce and infrastructure by creating a short-term rebate program to maintain existing workers and infrastructure, provide a long-term revolving loan program to promote job-creating productions, and develop a self-

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sustaining fund for film, digital media, and entertainment
production.

- (b) The Targeted Rebate Program Panel is created within the Office of Film and Entertainment. The panel shall consist of nine members, three members appointed by the Governor, three members appointed by the President of the Senate, and three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Each member must be skilled and knowledgeable in film, television, or digital media, and represent the statewide interest of the industry. The panel shall choose a chair and a secretary from among its members, meet monthly, and establish criteria and a scoring system to determine which qualified productions offer the best economic benefits to the state and its residents. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall provide staff support and assistance for panel meetings.
- (3) <u>TARGETED REBATE</u> APPLICATION PROCEDURE; APPROVAL PROCESS.—
- this state producing a qualified production with a production start date before July 1, 2017, in this state may submit a program application to the Office of Film and Entertainment for the purpose of determining certification. The applicant may not apply more qualification for an award of tax credits authorized by this section no earlier than 180 days before, or less than 45 days before, the production the first day of principal photography or project start date in this state. The applicant

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shall provide the Office of Film and Entertainment with information required to determine whether the production is a qualified production and to determine the qualified expenditures and other information necessary for the Targeted Rebate Program
Panel office to certify the production determine eligibility for the tax credit.

- (b) 1. Required documentation.—The Office of Film and Entertainment shall develop an application form for use in qualifying an applicant as a qualified production, and develop a process for the applicant's acceptance or rejection. The form must include, but need not be limited to, production-related information concerning employment of residents in this state, a detailed budget of planned qualified expenditures, and the applicant's signed affirmation that the information on the form has been verified and is correct. The Office of Film and Entertainment and local film commissions shall distribute the form.
- 2. The application must include the applicant's expected total salaries, wages, and other compensation for labor and the expected total expenditures for purchases and rentals.

 Expenditures other than for salaries, wages, and other compensation may not exceed 50 percent of the total amount of wages.
- (c) Application process.—The Office of Film and
 Entertainment shall establish a process by which an application
 is accepted and reviewed and by which tax credit eligibility and

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award amount are determined. The Office of Film and
Entertainment may request assistance from a duly appointed local
film commission in determining compliance with this section. A
certified high-impact television series may submit an initial
application for no more than two successive seasons,
notwithstanding the fact that the successive seasons have not
been ordered. The successive season's qualified expenditure
amounts shall be based on the current season's estimated
qualified expenditures. Upon the completion of production of
each season, a high-impact television series may submit an
application for no more than one additional season.

3.-(d) Certification. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall review the application within 20 15 business days after receipt to determine whether the production is a qualified production and verify expected qualified expenditures. Upon its determination that the application contains all the information required by this section, the office shall submit the application to the Targeted Rebate Program Panel subsection and meets the criteria set out in this section, the Office of Film and Entertainment shall qualify the applicant and recommend to the department that the applicant be certified for the maximum tax credit award amount. Within 5 business days after receipt of the recommendation, the department shall reject the recommendation or certify the maximum recommended tax credit award, if any, to the applicant and to the executive director of the Department of Revenue.

- 4. The Targeted Rebate Program Panel shall establish a process for reviewing applications qualified by the department for certification. The panel shall use a scoring system and other economic development criteria to certify or reject productions and shall determine the maximum amount of rebate that a certified production is eligible to receive.
- 5. The Office of Economic and Demographic Research shall provide assistance and advice to the Targeted Rebate Program

 Panel to create a model to be used to determine the expected economic benefit of the proposed production in each application.

 The expected economic benefit derived from such model shall be quantified in a numeric score, referred to as an "economic impact score," awarded to the application.
- 6. Effective July 15th, 2016, the panel must meet at least monthly by phone or other conference means to determine economic impact scores, and, using the scores and other criteria developed by the panel, decide which applicants shall be certified and determine the maximum amount of the rebate. The rebate amount shall be set aside for that certified production. The panel is not required to meet if there are no rebate funds available for certification.
- 7. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall reject any applicant that does not comply with the application policies and procedures. The panel shall certify or reject all applicants submitted by the office within 30 days after each conference

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meeting, and direct the department to notify the applicants of its decision.

- 8. No more than 50 percent of available funds may be certified in the first 6 months of any fiscal year. The remaining funds may be certified in the subsequent 6 months. Funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall be used the next fiscal year for certification.
- 9.(e) Grounds for denial.—The Office of Film and Entertainment shall deny an application if it determines that the application is not complete or the production or application does not meet the requirements of this section.
- 10. Each qualified production must make a good faith effort to use existing providers of infrastructure or equipment in this state, including providers of camera gear and grip and lighting equipment, vehicle providers, and postproduction services if available in this state.
- (4) TARGETED REBATE VERIFICATION PROCESS.—Within 90 days after submitting a program application, except with respect to applications in the independent and emerging media queue, a production must provide proof of project financing to the Office of Film and Entertainment, otherwise the project is deemed denied and withdrawn. A project that has been withdrawn may submit a new application upon providing the Office of Film and Entertainment proof of financing.
 - (f) Verification of actual qualified expenditures.-

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1. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall develop a process to verify the actual qualified expenditures of a certified production. The process must require:

- (a) a. A certified production to submit, within 90 days in a timely manner after production ends in this state and after making all of its last qualified expenditure expenditures in this state, data substantiating each qualified expenditure, including documentation on the net expenditure on equipment and other tangible personal property by the qualified production, to an independent certified public accountant licensed in this state.;
- (b) b. Such accountant to conduct a compliance audit, at the certified production's expense, to substantiate each qualified expenditure and submit the results as a report, along with all of the required substantiating data, at least 90 days after the first receipt of the records from the certified production, to the Office of Film and Entertainment.; and
- (c) c. The Office of Film and Entertainment to review the accountant's submittal within 90 days after its receipt and report to the department the final verified amount of actual qualified expenditures made by the certified production.
- (d) 2. The department to approve the final rebate amount to each certified applicant, which may not exceed the amount initially certified. Payment must be issued within 40 days after the office submits a request for payment.

(e) A compliance fee of 0.4 percent of the total rebate award to be deducted before issuing the rebate check to the certified company. Such amount shall be credited to the office in a manner by which the office may offset the cost of labor and expenses for the department's overall compliance review expenses shall determine and approve the final tax credit award amount to each certified applicant based on the final verified amount of actual qualified expenditures and shall notify the executive director of the Department of Revenue in writing that the certified production has met the requirements of the incentive program and of the final amount of the tax credit award. The final tax credit award amount may not exceed the maximum tax credit award amount certified under paragraph (d).

Promoting Florida.—The Office of Film and Entertainment shall ensure that, as a condition of receiving a rebate tax credit under this section, marketing materials promoting this state as a tourist destination or film and entertainment production destination are included, when appropriate, at no cost to the state, which must, at a minimum, include placement of a "Filmed in Florida" or "Produced in Florida" logo in the end credits.

The placement of a "Filmed in Florida" or "Produced in Florida" logo on all packaging material and hard media is also required, unless such placement is prohibited by licensing or other contractual obligations. The size and placement of the such logo shall be commensurate to other logos used in the end credits. If

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no logos are used <u>in the end credits</u>, the statement "Filmed in Florida using Florida's Entertainment Industry <u>Targeted Rebate Program</u>" or "Produced in Florida using Florida's Entertainment <u>Industry Targeted Rebate Program Financial Incentive</u>," or a similar statement approved by the Office of Film and Entertainment, shall be used. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall provide <u>the "Filmed in Florida" and "Produced in Florida" a</u> logo and supply it for the purposes specified in this paragraph.

- (6) PRIORITY FOR REBATE; WITHDRAWAL OF ELIGIBILITY; TIERS

 1 AND 2.—
- (a) Rebate.—The Targeted Rebate Program Panel shall determine, based on its scoring and evaluation, whether a qualified production is eligible for a rebate. A 30-second "Visit Florida" promotional video must also be included on all optical disc formats of a film, unless such placement is prohibited by licensing or other contractual obligations. The 30-second promotional video shall be approved and provided by the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation in consultation with the Commissioner of Film and Entertainment.
- (4) TAX CREDIT ELIGIBILITY; TAX CREDIT AWARDS; QUEUES; ELECTION AND DISTRIBUTION; CARRYFORWARD; CONSOLIDATED RETURNS; PARTNERSHIP AND NONCORPORATE DISTRIBUTIONS; MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS.—
- (a) Priority for tax credit award.—The priority of a qualified production for tax credit awards must be determined on

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a first-come, first-served basis within its appropriate queue. Each qualified production must be placed into the appropriate tier queue and is subject to the requirements of that tier queue.

(b) Tax credit eligibility.-

- (b) 1. General production tiers queue.—Eighty Ninety-four percent of rebate funding appropriated in the initial tax credits authorized pursuant to subsection (6) in any state fiscal year must be dedicated to the general production tiers.

 One percent of annual rebate funding must be dedicated to live musical or theatrical productions queue. The general production queue consists of all qualified productions other than those eligible for the commercial and music video queue or the independent and emerging media production queue.
- 1. Tier 1.—A production that has a minimum of \$1.5 million in qualified expenditures may receive a reimbursement of up to 15 percent of its actual qualified expenditures, plus applicable bonuses. However, a live musical or theatrical production may receive a reimbursement of up to 25 percent of its actual qualified expenditures, plus applicable bonuses.
- a. A tier 1 certified production may receive a maximum rebate of \$4 million. However, a tier 1 certified production that is a live musical or theatrical production may receive a maximum rebate of \$500,000.

- b. A tier 1 certified production that spans more than 1 fiscal year may combine qualified expenditures from both fiscal years to satisfy the qualified expenditure requirement.
- c. A tier 1 certified production company may submit no more than two applications during the first 6 months of a state fiscal year and no more than two applications during the subsequent 6 months. A single project that requires an additional application, such as a project that spans more than 1 fiscal year, shall count as one application.
- d. A tier 1 certified production may receive a 5-percent rebate bonus on actual qualified expenditures if it films 90 percent of its production in an underused area. For purposes of this sub-subparagraph, the term "underused area" means any county in this state other than Broward, Miami-Dade, Orange, and Seminole Counties.
- e. A tier 1 certified production determined by the

 Targeted Rebate Program Panel to be family-friendly based on the
 review of the script and an interview with the director may
 receive a rebate bonus equal to 2 percent of its actual
 qualified expenditures. Family-friendly productions have crossgenerational appeal; would be considered suitable for viewing by
 children age 5 and older; are appropriate in theme, content, and
 language for a broad family audience; embody a responsible
 resolution of issues; and do not exhibit any act of smoking,
 sex, nudity, gratuitous violence, or vulgar or profane language.

- f. A certified tier 1 production that does not, based on its audit and review of actual qualified expenditures, reach the required amount for tier 1, shall be designated a tier 2 production and is subject to tier 2 rules, limitations, and procedures.
- 2. Tier 2.—A production that has a minimum of \$250,000, but less than \$1.5 million, in qualified expenditures may receive a reimbursement of up to 15 percent of its actual qualified expenditures. However, a production that is a live musical or theatrical production must have a minimum of \$625,000 in qualified expenditures and may receive a reimbursement of up to 25 percent of its actual qualified expenditures.
- a. A tier 2 certified production may receive a maximum rebate of \$225,000.
- b. A certified production that spans more than 1 fiscal year may combine qualified expenditures from the fiscal years to satisfy the qualified expenditure requirement.
- c. A tier 2 certified production company may submit no more than one application during the first 6 months of the state fiscal year and no more than one application during the second 6 months. A single project that requires an additional application, such as a project that spans more than 1 fiscal year, shall count as one application.
 - (c) Withdrawal of certification.-
- 1. The department shall withdraw the eligibility of a certified production for a rebate:

	<u>a.</u>	I	f th	ne prod	ucti	lon do	oes no	ot beg	gin p	rincipa	al photo	ography
in	this	st	ate	within	45	days	after	the	date	provi	ded in	the_
pro	ogram	' s	app]	Licatio	n oi	June	e 30,	2017,	whi	chever	occurs	first.

- b. If the production does not timely comply with the deadlines and requirements of the program.
- c. If the production does not comply with any applicable policy or procedure.
 - d. If the production submits fraudulent information.
 - (7) QUALIFIED ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY REVOLVING LOAN FUND.
- (a) The Qualified Entertainment Industry Revolving Loan
 Fund is a public fund privately managed by the fund
 administrator. The department shall disburse the funds
 appropriated for the loan program to the fund administrator to
 invest in the revolving loan fund during the existence of the
 program pursuant to this section and the contract between the
 fund administrator and the department.
- (b) State funds in the revolving loan fund may be used only to enter into loan agreements and to pay any administrative costs or other authorized fees under this section.
- (c) The revolving loan fund must invest and reinvest the principal and interest of the fund in accordance with s.

 617.2104 in a manner that does not subject the fund to state or federal taxation and is consistent with the investment policy statement adopted by the fund administrator.
- (d) As a production company repays principal and interest to the revolving loan fund, state funds, less any revolving loan

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fund exp	penses,	sh	nall	be	reti	ırned	to	the	fund	to	be	used	to
provide	loans	to	subs	sequ	ıent	borro	owei	îs.					

- (e) The fund administrator shall disburse funds from the revolving loan fund through a lending vehicle and provide loans not to exceed 36 months in duration pursuant to this section.
- (f) Twenty percent of funds appropriated for the entertainment industry targeted rebate and revolving loan program shall be dedicated to the revolving loan fund.
- (g) The fund administrator must certify and verify that a recipient is not eligible for:
 - 1. The targeted rebate program; or
- $\underline{\text{2.}}$ The state sales tax exemption established under s. 288.1258.
 - (8) FUND ADMINISTRATOR.-
- (a) The department shall enter into a contract with a fund administrator within 90 days after funds are appropriated for the loan program and shall award the contract in accordance with the competitive bidding requirements of s. 287.057.
- (b) The department shall select as fund administrator a private sector entity that demonstrates the ability to implement the program under this section and that meets the requirements of this section. Preference shall be given to an applicant that maintains its headquarters in this state. Additional consideration may be given to an applicant having experience in the management of economic development or job creation-related

- funds. Qualifications for the fund administrator include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. A demonstrated record of managing private sector equity or debt funds in the entertainment and media industries.
 - 2. The ability to demonstrate, through a partnership agreement, that a qualified lending partner is in place which has the capability to provide leverage for at least 2.5 times the capital amount of the revolving loan fund, for financing the production cost of qualified television content consistent with subsection (6).
 - (c) The fund administrator shall be reimbursed for the costs incurred in establishing and operating the fund related to the state's investment, and the reimbursement shall be paid from state funds in the revolving loan fund. Any additional private investment capital in segregated accounts is subject to separate management fees. The fund administrator is entitled to a reasonable profit, but such distribution may not be made from the principal funds provided from the original appropriation, and is subject to approval by the Targeted Rebate Program Panel.
 - (d) The fund administrator shall provide services for the duration of the revolving loan fund term unless removed by the department. The contract between the department and the fund administrator shall set forth the circumstances under which the contract may be terminated.
 - (9) FUND ADMINISTRATOR; POWERS AND DUTIES.—The fund administrator:

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(a) May:

- 1. Enter into agreements with qualified lending partners for concurrent lending through the revolving loan fund. A loan made by the qualified lending partner must be accounted for separately from the state funds or other private investment capital. The fund administrator may raise private investment capital for mezzanine equity and other equity or raise junior capital for concurrent lending through the revolving loan fund. However, a loan from private investment capital, which is invested at the same risk profile as the revolving loan fund, may not be made at more favorable terms and conditions than those of the state funds in the revolving loan fund. The state appropriation must be maintained in a separate account from private investment capital and administered in a separate legal investment entity or entities. Private investment capital and loans shall be segregated from each other, and the funds may not be commingled.
- 2. Raise additional private investment capital to be held in separate accounts, in addition to the leverage provided by the qualified lending partner.

(b) Must:

- 1. Prudently manage the funds in the Qualified Entertainment Industry Revolving Loan Fund as a revolving loan fund.
 - 2. Contract with one or more qualified lending partners.

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- 3. Provide improvement of the credit profile of a structured financial transaction for qualified production companies that produce qualified television content meeting the criteria in subsection (6).
- 4. Administer the revolving loan fund in accordance with this subsection.
- 5. Agree to verify that the recipient's books and records relating to funds received from the department are maintained according to generally accepted accounting principles and in accordance with s. 215.97(7) and ensure that those books and records will be available to the department for inspection upon reasonable notice. The books and records must be maintained with detailed records showing the use of proceeds from loans to fund qualified television content.
- 6. Maintain its registered office in this state throughout the duration of the contract.
- 7. By the last day of February of each year, submit to the department financial statements for the preceding tax year which are audited by an independent certified public accountant after the end of each year in which the fund administrator is under contract with the department. In addition to providing an independent opinion on the annual financial statements, such audit provides a basis for verifying the segregation of state funds from those of any private investment capital.
- 8. Submit a report to the department by the last day of February after the end of each year in which the fund

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909	administrator is under contract with the department. The report	rt
910	must include information on the loans made in the preceding	
911	calendar year, including:	

- a. The name of the qualified television content.
- b. The names of the counties in which the production occurred.
- c. The number of jobs created and retained as a result of the production.
- d. The loan amounts, including the amount of private investment capital and funds provided by a qualified lending partner.
 - e. The repayment status for each loan.
- $\underline{\text{f.}}$ The number and amounts of any loans with payments past due.
 - g. The number and amounts of any loans in default.
 - h. A description of the assets securing the loans.
- i. Other information and documentation required by the department.
- 9. Submit an annual plan of accountability of economic development, including a report detailing the job creation that has resulted from the revolving loan fund loans made during the current year and since the inception of the program. The fund administrator must provide any additional information requested by the department pertaining to economic development and job creation in the state.

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- 10. Provide a conflict-of-interest statement from its governing board certifying that no board member, director, employee, agent, or immediate family member thereof, or other person connected to or affiliated with the fund administrator, is receiving or will receive any form of compensation or remuneration from a production company that has received or will receive funds from the loan program or from a qualified lending partner, under penalty of law. The department, with approval from the Targeted Rebate Program Panel, may waive, in writing, this requirement for good cause shown.
- (10) QUALIFIED ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM STRUCTURE.—
- (a) The Qualified Entertainment Industry Revolving Loan
 Fund shall be used to provide loans to a production company to
 fund production costs or provide improvement of the credit
 profile of a structured financial transaction for qualified
 television content that meets the requirements of subsection
 (6). The fund administrator must consider the types of eligible
 collateral; the credit worthiness of the project; the producer's
 professional history; the possibility that the project will
 encourage, enhance, or create economic benefits, with a focus on
 state job creation; and the extent to which assistance would
 foster innovative public-private partnerships and attract
 private debt or equity investment.
- (b) The loan must be secured by anticipated receivables from domestic and international broadcaster license agreements

and other ancillary revenues that are derived from media content rights. The fund administrator may not authorize unsecured loans.

- (c) A loan shall be made on the basis of a second lien or primary security rights on the media assets listed in paragraph
 (b).
- (d) The revolving loan fund shall provide funding only in conjunction with senior loans that take priority over other unsecured debt owed by the issuer and that are provided by a qualified lending partner. A loan from the fund may be subordinated to senior debt by the qualified lending partner and such loan may not exceed 30 percent of the total production funding cost of a single project.
- (e) The production company's repayment of a loan shall be in accordance with the license fee payment schedule agreement and the delivery of qualified television content to the major broadcaster and must be within 60 days after delivery of the qualified television content.
- (f) Loans made by the revolving loan fund must be repaid within 36 months.
- (g) The fund administrator, or a board member, employee, or agent thereof, or an immediate family member of a board member, employee, or agent, may not have a financial interest in an entity that is awarded a loan under the loan program and may not benefit directly or indirectly from the provision of the loan. As used in this section, the term "immediate family" means

986	a	parent,	child,	spouse,	or	other	relative	by	blood,	marriage,
987	0	r adoption	on.							

- (h) Except for funds appropriated to the department for the loan program, the credit of the state may not be pledged.

 The state is not liable or obligated in any way for claims against the revolving loan fund or against the fund administrator, the qualified lending partner, or the department.
 - (11) QUALIFIED TELEVISION CONTENT CRITERIA.-
- (a) The fund administrator must consider at least the following criteria for evaluating qualifying television content:
- 1. If the content is intended for broadcast by a major broadcaster on a major network, cable, or streaming channel.
 - 2. If the content is produced in this state.
 - 3. If the content is a series, if the series is:
- <u>a. A production created to run multiple seasons and has an</u>
 <u>estimated order of at least seven episodes per season and</u>
 qualified expenditures of at least \$1 million per episode; or
- b. A telenovela that has qualified expenditures of more than \$6 million, a minimum of 45 principal photography days filmed in this state, and a production cast and background production in this state.
- (b) The qualifying television content's producer must have a contract with a major broadcaster to acquire content programming under a customary broadcast license agreement and the amount of the contract must cover at least 60 percent of the budget.

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- (c) The content's producer must retain a foreign sales agent and be able to provide the fund administrator with the foreign sales agent's official estimates of foreign and ancillary sales.
- (d) If the content's production cost per episode is greater than \$1 million, the project must be bonded and secured by an industry-approved completion guarantor. This requirement may be waived if the loan applicant provides the fund administrator with evidence of adequate structure to protect the state's funds, and the department provides written acceptance of the waiver.
- (e) Six months after the program's start, the fund administrator may propose adding other types of programs for loans at its discretion and provide paperwork to justify such consideration for approval to the department and the Targeted Rebate Program Panel.
- (12) AUDITOR GENERAL AUDIT.—The Auditor General may conduct an operational audit, as defined in s. 11.45, of the revolving loan fund and fund administrator. The scope of the audit must include, but is not limited to, internal controls evaluations, internal audit functions, reporting and performance requirements for the use of the funds, and compliance with state and federal law. The fund administrator shall provide the Auditor General with any required details or supplemental data.
 - (13) EXPIRATION.—

- (a) The Qualified Entertainment Industry Revolving Loan
 Fund expires December 31, 2026. Upon expiration of the revolving
 loan fund, all remaining funds shall revert to the General
 Revenue Fund.
- (b) The targeted rebate program expires June 30, 2017.

 Certified rebate funds may be paid after that date pursuant to the deadlines and conditions authorized in this section. A qualified production that demonstrates a minimum of \$625,000 in qualified expenditures is eligible for tax credits equal to 20 percent of its actual qualified expenditures, up to a maximum of \$8 million. A qualified production that incurs qualified expenditures during multiple state fiscal years may combine those expenditures to satisfy the \$625,000 minimum threshold.
- a. An off-season certified production that is a feature film, independent film, or television series or pilot is eligible for an additional 5 percent tax credit on actual qualified expenditures. An off-season certified production that does not complete 75 percent of principal photography due to a disruption caused by a hurricane or tropical storm may not be disqualified from eligibility for the additional 5 percent credit as a result of the disruption.
- b. If more than 45 percent of the sum of total tax credits initially certified and awarded after April 1, 2012, total tax credits initially certified after April 1, 2012, but not yet awarded, and total tax credits available for certification after April 1, 2012, but not yet certified has been awarded for high-

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impact television series, then no high-impact television series is eligible for tax credits under this subparagraph. Tax credits initially certified for a high-impact television series after April 1, 2012, may not be awarded if the award will cause the percentage threshold in this sub-subparagraph to be exceeded. This sub-subparagraph does not prohibit the award of tax credits certified before April 1, 2012, for high-impact television series.

c. Subject to sub-subparagraph b., first priority in the queue for tax credit awards not yet certified shall be given to high-impact television series and high-impact digital media projects. For the purposes of determining priority between a high-impact television series and a high-impact digital media project, the first position must go to the first application received. Thereafter, priority shall be determined by alternating between a high-impact television series and a highimpact digital media project on a first-come, first-served basis. However, if the Office of Film and Entertainment receives an application for a high-impact television series or highimpact digital media project that would be certified but for the alternating priority, the office may certify the project as being in the priority position if an application that would normally be the priority position is not received within 5 business days.

d. A qualified production for which at least 67 percent of its principal photography days occur within a region designated

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as an underutilized region at the time that the production is certified is eligible for an additional 5 percent tax credit.

e. A qualified production that employs students enrolled full-time in a film and entertainment-related or digital media-related course of study at an institution of higher education in this state is eligible for an additional 15 percent tax credit on qualified expenditures that are wages, salaries, or other compensation paid to such students. The additional 15 percent tax credit is also applicable to persons hired within 12 months after graduating from a film and entertainment-related or digital media-related course of study at an institution of higher education in this state. The additional 15 percent tax credit applies to qualified expenditures that are wages, salaries, or other compensation paid to such recent graduates for 1 year after the date of hiring.

f. A qualified production for which 50 percent or more of its principal photography occurs at a qualified production facility, or a qualified digital media project or the digital animation component of a qualified production for which 50 percent or more of the project's or component's qualified expenditures are related to a qualified digital media production facility, is eligible for an additional 5 percent tax credit on actual qualified expenditures for production activity at that facility.

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g. A qualified production is not eligible for tax credits provided under this paragraph totaling more than 30 percent of its actual qualified expenses.

2. Commercial and music video queue. Three percent of tax credits authorized pursuant to subsection (6) in any state fiscal year must be dedicated to the commercial and music video queue. A qualified production company that produces national or regional commercials or music videos may be eligible for a tax credit award if it demonstrates a minimum of \$100,000 in qualified expenditures per national or regional commercial or music video and exceeds a combined threshold of \$500,000 after combining actual qualified expenditures from qualified commercials and music videos during a single state fiscal year. After a qualified production company that produces commercials, music videos, or both reaches the threshold of \$500,000, it is eligible to apply for certification for a tax credit award. The maximum credit award shall be equal to 20 percent of its actual qualified expenditures up to a maximum of \$500,000. If there is a surplus at the end of a fiscal year after the Office of Film and Entertainment certifies and determines the tax credits for all qualified commercial and video projects, such surplus tax credits shall be carried forward to the following fiscal year and are available to any eligible qualified productions under the general production queue.

3. Independent and emerging media production queue.—Three percent of tax credits authorized pursuant to subsection (6) in

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any state fiscal year must be dedicated to the independent and emerging media production queue. This queue is intended to encourage independent film and emerging media production in this state. Any qualified production, excluding commercials, infomercials, or music videos, which demonstrates at least \$100,000, but not more than \$625,000, in total qualified expenditures is eligible for tax credits equal to 20 percent of its actual qualified expenditures. If a surplus exists at the end of a fiscal year after the Office of Film and Entertainment certifies and determines the tax credits for all qualified independent and emerging media production projects, such surplus tax credits shall be carried forward to the following fiscal year and are available to any eligible qualified productions under the general production queue.

4. Family-friendly productions. A certified theatrical or direct-to-video motion picture production or video game determined by the Commissioner of Film and Entertainment, with the advice of the Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council, to be family-friendly, based on review of the script and review of the final release version, is eligible for an additional tax credit equal to 5 percent of its actual qualified expenditures. Family-friendly productions are those that have cross-generational appeal; would be considered suitable for viewing by children age 5 or older; are appropriate in theme, content, and language for a broad family audience; embody a

responsible resolution of issues; and do not exhibit or imply any act of smoking, sex, nudity, or vulgar or profane language.

- (c) Withdrawal of tax credit eligibility.—A qualified or certified production must continue on a reasonable schedule, which includes beginning principal photography or the production project in this state no more than 45 calendar days before or after the principal photography or project start date provided in the production's program application. The department shall withdraw the eligibility of a qualified or certified production that does not continue on a reasonable schedule.
 - (d) Election and distribution of tax credits.-
- 1. A certified production company receiving a tax credit award under this section shall, at the time the credit is awarded by the department after production is completed and all requirements to receive a credit award have been met, make an irrevocable election to apply the credit against taxes due under chapter 220, against state taxes collected or accrued under chapter 212, or against a stated combination of the two taxes. The election is binding upon any distributee, successor, transferee, or purchaser. The department shall notify the Department of Revenue of any election made pursuant to this paragraph.
- 2. A qualified production company is eligible for tax credits against its sales and use tax liabilities and corporate income tax liabilities as provided in this section. However, tax credits awarded under this section may not be claimed against

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sales and use tax liabilities or corporate income tax liabilities for any tax period beginning before July 1, 2011, regardless of when the credits are applied for or awarded.

- (e) Tax credit carryforward.—If the certified production company cannot use the entire tax credit in the taxable year or reporting period in which the credit is awarded, any excess amount may be carried forward to a succeeding taxable year or reporting period. A tax credit applied against taxes imposed under chapter 212 may be carried forward for a maximum of 5 years after the date the credit is awarded. A tax credit applied against taxes imposed under chapter 220 may be carried forward for a maximum of 5 years after the date the credit is awarded, after which the credit expires and may not be used.
- (f) Consolidated returns.—A certified production company that files a Florida consolidated return as a member of an affiliated group under s. 220.131(1) may be allowed the credit on a consolidated return basis up to the amount of the tax imposed upon the consolidated group under chapter 220.
- (g) Partnership and noncorporate distributions.—A qualified production company that is not a corporation as defined in s. 220.03 may elect to distribute tax credits awarded under this section to its partners or members in proportion to their respective distributive income or loss in the taxable year in which the tax credits were awarded.
- (h) Mergers or acquisitions.—Tax credits available under this section to a certified production company may succeed to a

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surviving or acquiring entity subject to the same conditions and limitations as described in this section; however, they may not be transferred again by the surviving or acquiring entity.

- (5) TRANSFER OF TAX CREDITS.
- (a) Authorization.—Upon application to the Office of Film and Entertainment and approval by the department, a certified production company, or a partner or member that has received a distribution under paragraph (4)(g), may elect to transfer, in whole or in part, any unused credit amount granted under this section. An election to transfer any unused tax credit amount under chapter 212 or chapter 220 must be made no later than 5 years after the date the credit is awarded, after which period the credit expires and may not be used. The department shall notify the Department of Revenue of the election and transfer.
- (b) Number of transfers permitted.—A certified production company that elects to apply a credit amount against taxes remitted under chapter 212 is permitted a one-time transfer of unused credits to one transferee. A certified production company that elects to apply a credit amount against taxes due under chapter 220 is permitted a one-time transfer of unused credits to no more than four transferees, and such transfers must occur in the same taxable year.
- (c) Transferee rights and limitations.—The transferee is subject to the same rights and limitations as the certified production company awarded the tax credit, except that the initial transferee shall be permitted a one-time transfer of

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unused credits to no more than two subsequent transferees, and such transfers must occur in the same taxable year as the credits were received by the initial transferee, after which the subsequent transferees may not sell or otherwise transfer the tax credit.

- (6) RELINQUISHMENT OF TAX CREDITS.-
- (a) Beginning July 1, 2011, a certified production company, or any person who has acquired a tax credit from a certified production company pursuant to subsections (4) and (5), may elect to relinquish the tax credit to the Department of Revenue in exchange for 90 percent of the amount of the relinquished tax credit.
- (b) The Department of Revenue may approve payments to persons relinquishing tax credits pursuant to this subsection.
- (c) Subject to legislative appropriation, the Department of Revenue shall request the Chief Financial Officer to issue warrants to persons relinquishing tax credits. Payments under this subsection shall be made from the funds from which the proceeds from the taxes against which the tax credits could have been applied pursuant to the irrevocable election made by the certified production company under subsection (4) are deposited.
 - (7) ANNUAL ALLOCATION OF TAX CREDITS.
- (a) The aggregate amount of the tax credits that may be certified pursuant to paragraph (3) (d) may not exceed:
 - 1. For fiscal year 2010-2011, \$53.5 million.
 - 2. For fiscal year 2011-2012, \$74.5 million.

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- 3. For fiscal years 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016, \$42 million per fiscal year.
- (b) Any portion of the maximum amount of tax credits established per fiscal year in paragraph (a) that is not certified as of the end of a fiscal year shall be carried forward and made available for certification during the following 2 fiscal years in addition to the amounts available for certification under paragraph (a) for those fiscal years.
- (c) Upon approval of the final tax credit award amount pursuant to subparagraph (3)(f)2., an amount equal to the difference between the maximum tax credit award amount previously certified under paragraph (3)(d) and the approved final tax credit award amount shall immediately be available for recertification during the current and following fiscal years in addition to the amounts available for certification under paragraph (a) for those fiscal years.
- (d) If, during a fiscal year, the total amount of credits applied for, pursuant to paragraph (3)(a), exceeds the amount of credits available for certification in that fiscal year, such excess shall be treated as having been applied for on the first day of the next fiscal year in which credits remain available for certification.
 - (14) (8) RULES, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES.—
- (a) The Office of Film and Entertainment department may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 and shall develop policies and procedures to implement and administer this

section, including, but not limited to, rules specifying requirements for the application and approval process.

- of Film and Entertainment shall provide an annual report of the previous fiscal year to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives that outlines the return on investment and economic benefits to the state of the entertainment industry targeted rebate and revolving loan program, records required for substantiation for tax credits, procedures for making the election in paragraph (4)(d), the manner and form of documentation required to claim tax credits awarded or transferred under this section, and marketing requirements for tax credit recipients.
- (b) The Department of Revenue may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this section, including rules governing the examination and audit procedures required to administer this section and the manner and form of documentation required to claim tax credits awarded, transferred, or relinquished under this section.
- (9) AUDIT AUTHORITY; REVOCATION AND FORFEITURE OF TAX
 CREDITS; FRAUDULENT CLAIMS.—
- (a) Audit authority.—The Department of Revenue may conduct examinations and audits as provided in s. 213.34 to verify that tax credits under this section are received, transferred, and applied according to the requirements of this section. If the Department of Revenue determines that tax credits are not

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received, transferred, or applied as required by this section, it may, in addition to the remedies provided in this subsection, pursue recovery of such funds pursuant to the laws and rules governing the assessment of taxes.

(b) Revocation of tax credits.—The department may revoke or modify any written decision qualifying, certifying, or otherwise granting eligibility for tax credits under this section if it is discovered that the tax credit applicant submitted any false statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed in an attempt to receive tax credits under this section. The department shall immediately notify the Department of Revenue of any revoked or modified orders affecting previously granted tax credits. Additionally, the applicant must notify the Department of Revenue of any change in its tax credit claimed.

Department of Revenue, as a result of an audit pursuant to paragraph (a) or from information received from the Office of Film and Entertainment, that an applicant received tax credits pursuant to this section to which the applicant was not entitled is grounds for forfeiture of previously claimed and received tax credits. The applicant is responsible for returning forfeited tax credits to the Department of Revenue, and such funds shall be paid into the General Revenue Fund of the state. Tax credits purchased in good faith are not subject to forfeiture unless the

transferee submitted fraudulent information in the purchase or failed to meet the requirements in subsection (5).

(16) (d) FRAUD Fraudulent claims.—Any applicant that submits information under this section that includes fraudulent information under this section is liable for reimbursement of the reasonable costs and fees associated with the review, processing, investigation, and prosecution of the fraudulent claim. An applicant that obtains a rebate credit payment under this section through a claim that is fraudulent is liable for reimbursement of the rebate payment credit amount plus a penalty in an amount double the rebate payment credit amount. The penalty is in addition to any criminal penalty to which the applicant is liable for the same acts. The applicant is also liable for costs and fees incurred by the state in investigating and prosecuting the fraudulent claim.

(10)—ANNUAL REPORT.—Each November 1, the Office of Film and Entertainment shall submit an annual report for the previous fiscal year to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which outlines the incentive program's return on investment and economic benefits to the state. The report must also include an estimate of the full-time equivalent positions created by each production that received tax credits under this section and information relating to the distribution of productions receiving credits by geographic region and type of production. The report must also include the expenditures report required under s. 288.1253(3)

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and the in:	forma	ation	descr	lbir	ig the re	:lationsl	nip betwe	en tax	
exemptions	and	incer	itives	to	industry	growth	required	under	S.
288.1258(5)) .								

- (11) REPEAL.—This section is repealed July 1, 2016, except that:
- (a) Tax credits certified under paragraph (3) (d) before

 July 1, 2016, may be awarded under paragraph (3) (f) on or after

 July 1, 2016, if the other requirements of this section are met.
- (b) Tax credits carried forward under paragraph (4) (e) remain valid for the period specified.
- (c) Subsections (5), (8) and (9) shall remain in effect until July 1, 2021.

Section 42. Subsection (5) of section 288.1258, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.1258 Entertainment industry qualified production companies; application procedure; categories; duties of the Department of Revenue; records and reports.—

(5) RELATIONSHIP OF TAX EXEMPTIONS AND INCENTIVES TO INDUSTRY GROWTH; REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE.—The Office of Film and Entertainment shall keep annual records from the information provided on taxpayer applications for tax exemption certificates beginning January 1, 2001. These records also must reflect a ratio of the annual amount of sales and use tax exemptions under this section, plus the incentives awarded pursuant to s. 288.1254 to the estimated amount of funds expended by certified productions. In addition, the office shall maintain data showing

annual growth in Florida-based entertainment industry companies and entertainment industry employment and wages. The employment information must include an estimate of the full-time equivalent positions created by each production that received tax credits pursuant to s. 288.1254. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall include this information in the annual report for the entertainment industry financial incentive program required under s. 288.1254(10).

TITLE AMENDMENT

Remove line 125 and insert:

288.106, F.S., in a reference thereto; repealing s.
220.1899, F.S., relating to the entertainment industry
tax credit, and amending ss. 212.08 and 220.02, F.S.,
to conform; amending s. 220.13, F.S.; revising the
definition of the term "adjusted federal income" for
purposes of the corporate income tax, to conform to
deletion of provisions relating to the transfer of tax
credits; amending ss. 288.0001, F.S.; conforming
provisions to changes made by the act; amending
288.125, F.S.; amending the definition of the term
"entertainment industry"; amending s. 288.1253, F.S.;
conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
amending s. 288.1254, F.S.; revising and providing
definitions; revising provisions relating to the

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entertainment industry financial incentive program;
creating the entertainment industry targeted rebate
and revolving loan program for specified purposes;
establishing the Targeted Rebate Program Panel;
providing for the panel's membership and duties with
respect to reviewing targeted rebate applications;
providing application requirements for the targeted
rebate program; providing responsibilities of the
Office of Economic and Demographic Research; providing
requirements relating to the targeted rebate
verification process; providing requirements relating
to targeted rebate marketing; providing rebate
requirements; establishing the Qualified Entertainment
Industry Revolving Loan Fund; providing fund
requirements; providing requirements, powers, and
duties of the fund administrator; providing loan
structure requirements; providing requirements for
qualified television content; providing auditing
requirements; providing for the expiration of the fund
and the targeted rebate program; repealing provisions
related to tax credits; providing the Office of Film
and Entertainment with certain rulemaking authority;
revising and providing reporting requirements;
repealing provisions relating to audit authority, tax
credits, and fraudulent claims; repealing provisions
relating to future repeal; amending s. 288.1258, F.S.,

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HOUSE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS/HB 1325 (2016)

Amendment No.

1449	deleting provisions relating to the maintenance of
1450	records with respect to certain entertainment industry
1451	tax exemptions and incentives; providing an

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