CHAMBER ACTION

The Tourism Committee recommends the following:

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Council/Committee Substitute

Remove the entire bill and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to entertainment industry economic development; amending s. 212.08, F.S.; authorizing the use of certain entertainment industry tax credits as a refund against sales and use tax liability under certain circumstances; providing requirements, procedures, and limitations; authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt rules; amending s. 220.02, F.S.; revising the order of priority list of applicable credits against certain taxes; transferring, renumbering, and amending s. 288.1254, F.S.; revising the entertainment industry financial incentive program to provide corporate income tax credits to qualified entertainment entities rather than reimbursements from appropriations; revising provisions relating to definitions, creation and scope, application procedures, approval process, eligibility, required documents, qualified productions, and annual reports; providing criteria and limitations for awards of tax credits; providing marketing requirements; requiring

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the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development and Department of Revenue to adopt rules; providing liability for reimbursement of certain costs and fees associated with fraudulent applications; providing for future repeal; amending s. 477.0135, F.S.; correcting a cross-reference; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (r) is added to subsection (5) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, to read:

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 chapter.

- (5) EXEMPTIONS; ACCOUNT OF USE. --
- (r) Entertainment industry tax credits; authorization; eligibility for credits.--Beginning July 1, 2006, any company engaged in producing filmed entertainment in this state that has registered with the department under this chapter to collect or remit sales or use tax and has satisfied the requirements enumerated in and has received credits under s. 220.192 may use the award of credits against the tax imposed by this chapter as provided by this section.
- 1. The credit shall be granted as a refund against state sales and use taxes reported on returns and remitted in the 12

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52 months preceding the date of application to the department for the credit.

- 2. A company may not be awarded more than \$2 million in tax credits under this paragraph and s. 220.192, unless the production is a high-impact television series as defined in s. 220.192(2)(b), in which case the production shall be eligible for a maximum tax credit award of \$3 million.
- 3. The total amount of tax credits which may be granted for all programs approved under this paragraph and s. 220.192 is \$25 million in any state fiscal year.
- 4. A company may use the tax credit against the tax liability imposed under this chapter, in whole or in part, and against the liability imposed under chapter 220, so long as the credit is actually applied only once.
- 5. The department may adopt rules pursuant to ss.

 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this paragraph, as provided by s. 220.192(6)(b).
- Section 2. 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. 221.02, those enumerated in s. 220.184, those enumerated in s. 220.186, those enumerated in s. 220.1845, those enumerated in s. 220.19,

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those enumerated in s. 220.185, and those enumerated in s. 220.187, and those enumerated in s. 220.192.

Section 3. Section 288.1254, Florida Statutes, is transferred and renumbered as section 220.192, Florida Statutes, and amended to read:

<u>220.192</u> <u>288.1254</u> Entertainment industry financial incentive program; creation; purpose; definitions; application procedure; approval process; <u>reimbursement</u> eligibility; submission of required documentation; recommendations for <u>credit</u> award payment; policies and procedures; fraudulent claims.--

- (1) CREATION AND PURPOSE OF PROGRAM. -- Subject to specific appropriation, There is created within the Office of Film and Entertainment an entertainment industry financial incentive program. The purpose of this program is to encourage the use of this state as a site for filming and developing and sustaining the workforce and infrastructure providing production services for filmed entertainment.
 - (2) DEFINITIONS. -- As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Filmed entertainment" means a theatrical or direct-to-video motion picture, a made-for-television motion picture teleproduction, a commercial, a music video, an industrial or educational film, a promotional video or film, a documentary film, a television pilot, a presentation for a television pilot, a television series, including, but not limited to, a drama, a reality, a comedy, a soap opera, a telenovela, a game show, and a miniseries production, or a digital-media-effects production by the entertainment industry to be sold or displayed in an electronic medium, excluding news

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shows and sporting events. As used in this paragraph, the term
"motion picture" means a motion picture made on or by film,
tape, or otherwise and produced by means of a motion picture
camera, electronic camera or device, tape device, any
combination of the foregoing, or any other means, method, or
device now used or which may hereafter be adopted. As used in
this paragraph, the term "digital-media-effects" means visual
elements created through the modification of already existing or
newly created visual elements for film, video, or animated media
through the use of digital 2D/3D animation or painting, motion
capture, or compositing technologies. For purposes of this
section, the term "filmed entertainment" does not include the
electronic gaming industry or sporting events.

- (b) "High-impact television series" means a production created to run multiple production seasons with an estimated order of at least seven episodes per season and qualified expenditures of at least \$625,000 per episode.
- (c) (b) "Production costs" means the costs of real, tangible, and intangible property used and services performed primarily or customarily in the production, including preproduction and postproduction, of qualified filmed entertainment. Production costs generally include, but are not limited to:
- 1. Wages, salaries, or other compensation, including amounts paid through payroll service companies, for technical and production crews, directors, producers, and performers who are residents of this state.

2. Expenditures for sound stages, backlots, production editing, digital effects, sound recordings, sets, and set construction.

- 3. Expenditures for rental equipment, including, but not limited to, cameras and grip or electrical equipment.
- 4. Expenditures for meals, travel, <u>and</u> accommodations, and goods used in producing filmed entertainment that is located and doing business in this state.
- 5. Expenditures for goods and services used in producing filmed entertainment.
- <u>(d)</u> (c) "Qualified expenditures" means production costs incurred in this state within the current state fiscal year for goods purchased or leased <u>from</u> or services <u>provided</u> by <u>purchased</u>, <u>leased</u>, <u>or employed from a resident of this state or</u> a vendor or supplier who is located and doing business in this state, <u>or payments to residents of this state in the form of salary</u>, <u>wages</u>, <u>or other compensation</u> <u>but</u> excluding wages, salaries, <u>and er</u> other compensation paid to the two highest-paid residents of this state <u>employees</u>.
- (e) (d) "Qualified production" means filmed entertainment that meets or exceeds minimum qualified makes expenditures required in this state for the total or partial production of filmed entertainment. Productions that are deemed by the Office of Film and Entertainment to contain obscene content, as defined by the United States Supreme Court, are not qualified productions. Also, a production is not a qualified production if it is determined that the first day of principal photography in this state occurred on or before the date of submitting its

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application to the Office of Film and Entertainment or prior to certification by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

- (f) (e) "Qualified production company relocation project" means a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, corporate headquarters, or other legal private entity engaged in the production of filmed entertainment that is domiciled in another state or country and relocates its operations to this state, is organized under the laws of this or any other state or country, and includes as one of its primary purposes digital media-effects or motion picture and television production, or postproduction.
 - (3) APPLICATION PROCEDURE; APPROVAL PROCESS. --
- (a) Any company engaged in this state in producing filmed entertainment may submit an application to the Office of Film and Entertainment for the purpose of determining qualification for an award of credits against the tax imposed by this chapter as receipt of reimbursement provided in this section. The office must be provided information required to determine if the production is a qualified production and to determine the qualified expenditures, production costs, and other information necessary for the office to determine both eligibility for the tax credit and level of reimbursement.
- (b) A digital media effects company in the state which furnishes digital material to filmed entertainment may submit an application to the Office of Film and Entertainment for the purpose of determining qualification for receipt of reimbursement authorized by this section. The office must be

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provided information required to determine if the company is qualified and to determine the amount of reimbursement.

(c) Any corporation, limited liability company,
partnership, corporate headquarters, or other private entity
domiciled in another state which includes as one of its primary
purposes digital-media-effects or motion picture and television
production and which is considering relocation to this state may
submit an application to the Office of Film and Entertainment
for the purpose of determining qualification for reimbursement
under this section.

(d)1. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall establish a process by which an application is accepted and reviewed and reimbursement eligibility and reimbursement amount are determined. The Office of Film and Entertainment may request assistance from a duly appointed local film commission in determining qualifications for reimbursement and compliance.

1.2. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall develop a standardized application form for use in qualifying an applicant as approving a qualified production, a qualified relocation project, or a company qualifying under paragraph (a), paragraph (b), or paragraph (c). The application form for qualifying an applicant as a qualified production must include, but need not be limited to, production-related information on employment, proposed total production budgets, planned expenditures in this state which are intended for use exclusively as an integral part of preproduction, production, or postproduction activities engaged primarily in this state, and a signed affirmation from the applicant Office of Film and Entertainment that the

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information on the application form has been verified and is correct. The application form shall be distributed to applicants by the Office of Film and Entertainment or local film commissions.

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2.3. Within 10 business days after receipt of an application, the Office of Film and Entertainment shall review the application to determine if the application contains all the information required by this subsection and meets the criteria set out in this section. The office shall qualify all applications that contain the information and meet the criteria set out in this section as eliqible to receive a tax credit or shall notify the applicant that the requirements for qualification have not been met. If the application is qualified, the office shall recommend to the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development approval of the maximum amount of the tax credit to be awarded. The Office of Film and Entertainment must complete its review of each application within 5 days after receipt of the completed application, including all required information, and it must notify the applicant of its determination within 10 business days after receipt of the completed application and required information.

3.4. Within 10 business days after receiving notice from the Office of Film and Entertainment of qualification of an applicant as a qualified production and a recommended approval of the maximum amount of tax credit to be awarded, the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall certify the maximum tax credit award, if any. The certification shall be transmitted to the applicant and to the executive director of

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the Department of Revenue. The applicant shall be responsible for forwarding a certified application to the Department of Revenue. Upon determination that all criteria are met for qualification for reimbursement, The Office of Film and Entertainment shall notify the applicant of such approval. the office shall also notify the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development of the applicant approval and amount of reimbursement required. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall make final determination for actual reimbursement.

- $\underline{4.5.}$ The Office of Film and Entertainment shall deny an application if it determines that:
- a. The application is not complete or does not meet the requirements of this section; or
- b. The <u>tax credit amount</u> reimbursement sought does not meet the requirements of this section for such reimbursement.
- (4) <u>CREDIT</u> <u>REIMBURSEMENT</u> ELIGIBILITY; SUBMISSION OF

 REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION; <u>APPLICATION</u> <u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u> FOR <u>TRANSFER</u>

 <u>PAYMENT.--</u>
- entertainment that is qualified by the Office of Film and Entertainment and is certified by the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development is eligible for a tax credit for reimbursement of up to 15 percent of its qualified qualifying expenditures in this state on a filmed entertainment program that demonstrates a minimum of \$850,000 in total qualified expenditures for the entire run of the project, versus the budget on a single episode, within the fiscal year from July 1

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to June 30. However, the maximum reimbursement that may be made with respect to any filmed entertainment program is \$2 million.

All reimbursements under this section are subject to appropriation.

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- (b) Production spanning 2 state fiscal years.--A qualified production that starts in one state fiscal year and finishes in the next state fiscal year shall have all qualified expenditures from both state fiscal years certified for the latter state fiscal year. This requirement does not apply to the commercials and music video queue described in subparagraph (d)3.
- (c) Aggregate tax credit available. -- The aggregate amount of tax credits allowed under this section in any state fiscal year is \$25 million. If the total amount of allocated tax credits applied for in any state fiscal year exceeds the aggregate amount of tax credits authorized annually under this section, such excess shall be treated as having been applied for on the first day of the next state fiscal year in which tax credits remain available for allocation. However, no more than an aggregate amount of \$100 million in tax credits shall be allocated in state fiscal year 2006-2007, aggregate allocations in state fiscal year 2007-2008 shall not exceed \$133 million, aggregate allocations in state fiscal year 2008-2009 shall not exceed \$166 million, and aggregate allocations in state fiscal years 2009-2010 and thereafter shall not exceed \$200 million. At such time as \$200 million of tax credits have been allocated, no additional tax credits shall be allocated.
- (d) Filmed entertainment queues.--Tax credits awarded

 Payments under this section in a state fiscal year shall be made Page 11 of 20

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to qualified productions according to a production's principal photography start date, for those qualified productions having entered into the first queue as cited in subparagraph 1. or the second queue cited in subparagraph 2. within the first 2 weeks after the queue's opening. All other qualified productions entering into either queue after the initial 2-week openings shall be on a first-come, first-served basis until the appropriation for that fiscal year is exhausted. On February 1 of each year, the remaining funds within both queues shall be combined into a single queue and distributed based on a project's principal photography start date. The eligibility of qualified productions may not carry over from year to year, but such productions may reapply for eliqibility under the quidelines established for doing so. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall develop a procedure to ensure that qualified productions continue on a reasonable schedule until completion. If a qualified production is not continued according to a reasonable schedule, the office shall withdraw its eligibility and reallocate the funds to the next qualified productions already in the queue that have yet to receive their full maximum or 15 percent financial reimbursement, if they have not started principal photography by the time the funds become available.

1. Film, television, and episodic queue.--Theatrical or direct-to-video motion pictures, made-for-television movies, commercials, music videos, industrial and educational films, promotional videos or films, documentary films, television specials, television series, including, but not limited to, miniseries and telenovelas, and digital-media-effects

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331 productions by the entertainment industry to be sold or 332 displayed in an electronic medium that demonstrate a minimum of \$625,000 in total qualified expenditures for the entire run of 333 334 the project, which, for a television series, means a season even 335 if the season is not completed in the same state fiscal year in 336 which principal photography began, shall have their own separate 337 queue established, and such queue shall have dedicated to it 60 percent of all available tax credits in any state fiscal year 338 339 for which this section applies of the state incentive money. The 340 maximum tax credit award that may be made from this queue for 341 any single production is \$2 million, unless the production is a 342 high-impact television series, in which case the production 343 shall be eligible for a maximum tax credit award of \$3 million, 344 provided such production meets the other criteria of this section. On March 1 of each year, the remaining tax credits 345 within this queue shall be merged into a general queue and may 346 347 be used for other purposes of this section as determined by the 348 Office of Film and Entertainment. A television series, including, but not limited to, a qualified high-impact 349 television series, is not eligible for a tax credit award under 350 this section after its fifth production season. A qualified 351 352 high-impact television series shall be allowed first position in this queue for its first five production seasons in this state 353 354 if the application is received by the Office of Film and 355 Entertainment within the first 2 weeks after the queue's 356 opening. A qualified high-impact television series must file an 357 application for each state fiscal year in which it is eligible

to receive the credit, unless otherwise provided in this section.

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- Television pilot queue. -- Television pilots and T 2. presentations for television pilots for television series intended to be shot in this state and, or television series, including, but not limited to, drama, reality, comedy, soap opera, telenovela, game show, or miniseries productions, by the entertainment industry to be sold or displayed in an electronic medium that demonstrate a minimum of \$625,000 in total qualified expenditures for the pilot episode or presentation shall have their own separate queue established, and such queue shall have dedicated to it 20 40 percent of all available tax credits in any given state fiscal year for which this section applies of the state incentive money. The maximum tax credit award that may be made from this queue for any single project is \$2 million. On March 1 of each year, the remaining tax credits within this queue shall be merged into a general queue and may be used for other purposes of this section as determined by the Office of Film and Entertainment.
- 3. Commercials and music video queue.--Commercials and music videos by the entertainment industry to be sold or displayed in an electronic medium that demonstrate a minimum of \$500,000 in combined total qualified expenditures from a production company during the state fiscal year with a minimum of \$75,000 in qualified expenditures for each production shall have their own separate queue established. Such queue shall have dedicated to it 20 percent of available tax credits in any given state fiscal year for which this section applies. The maximum

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tax credit award that may be made from this queue for any single production company is \$500,000 for a state fiscal year. On April 1 of each year, the remaining tax credits within this queue shall be merged into a general queue and may be used for other purposes of this section as determined by the Office of Film and Entertainment.

- (e) Loss of eligibility; reallocation of tax credits.--If a qualified production is not continued according to a reasonable schedule or the Office of Film and Entertainment is notified that a qualified production will no longer be produced, the office shall withdraw the production's eligibility for tax credits and reallocate the tax credits to the next qualified productions already in the queue that have yet to receive a full tax credit if such next qualified productions have not started principal photography by the time the tax credits become available.
- (f) Verification of tax credit award.--The Office of Film and Entertainment shall develop a process by which a qualified production that has been certified by the Office of Tourism,

 Trade, and Economic Development shall submit to the Office of Film and Entertainment, in a timely manner after production ends and after making all of its qualified expenditures, verifying data to substantiate each qualified expenditure. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall report to the Office of Tourism,

 Trade, and Economic Development the final verified amount of actual qualified expenditures made by the qualified production.

 The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall then notify the executive director of the Department of Revenue

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that the qualified production has met all requirements of the incentive program and shall recommend the final amount of the tax credit.

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(q) (b) Use of tax credit; carry forward. -- The tax credit available under this section shall only be surrendered in satisfaction of the tax owed by a qualified production company under this chapter and only up to the face amount of the credit. If the qualified production company cannot use the entire tax credit in the state fiscal year in which the credit is approved, any excess may be carried over to a succeeding state fiscal year. A tax credit granted under this section and applied against taxes imposed under this chapter may be carried forward only for a maximum of 5 state fiscal years following the state fiscal year in which the credit was approved. A digital-mediaeffects company in the state which furnishes digital material to filmed entertainment may be eligible for a payment in an amount not to exceed 5 percent of its annual gross revenues on qualified expenditures as defined in paragraph (2)(c) before taxes or \$100,000, whichever is less. A company applying for payment must submit documentation annually as required by the Office of Film and Entertainment for determination of eligibility of claimed billing and determination of the amount of payment for which the company is eliqible.

(h) (c) Transfer of tax credits.--Upon application and approval by the Department of Revenue, a taxpayer may sell or assign, in whole or in part, a tax credit granted under this section. The sale or assignment of any amount of the tax credit shall not be exchanged for consideration received by the

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taxpayer of less than 85 percent of the transferred amount of tax credit. The purchaser or assignee shall surrender the tax credit in the state fiscal year acquired from the qualified production company and otherwise may carry the tax credit over subject to the same limitations on tax credit usage as the qualified production company awarded the tax credit. The purchaser may not sell, assign, or otherwise transfer the tax credit. Tax credits granted by this section may not be sold or assigned, in whole or in part, until all credits the taxpayer is eligible to use under this chapter and chapter 212 are exhausted. The Department of Revenue may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this paragraph, as provided in paragraph (6)(b). A qualified relocation project that is certified by the Office of Film and Entertainment is eligible for a one time incentive payment in an amount equal to 5 percent of its annual gross revenues before taxes for the first 12 months of conducting business in its Florida domicile or \$200,000, whichever is less. A company applying for payment must submit documentation as required by the Office of Film and Entertainment for determination of eligibility of claimed billing and determination of the amount of payment for which the company is eligible. (i) (d) Noncorporate distributions of tax credits.--A qualified production company that is not a corporation, as defined in s. 220.03(1)(e), shall elect to make an application, a digital media effects company, or a qualified relocation project applying for a payment under this section must submit

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documentation for claimed qualified expenditures to the

Department of Revenue as provided in paragraph (h) or distribute tax credits awarded under this section to its partners or members in proportion to the respective distributive share of such partners' or members' income or loss in the state fiscal year in which such tax credits were approved. A tax credit granted under this section and applied against taxes imposed under this chapter shall be carried forward only for a maximum of 5 state fiscal years following the state fiscal year in which the credit was approved Office of Film and Entertainment. The Department of Revenue may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer this paragraph, as provided in paragraph (6)(b).

- (j) (e) Use of tax credits.--A company may use the tax credit against the tax liability imposed under this chapter, in whole or in part, and against the tax liability imposed under chapter 212. The Office of Film and Entertainment shall notify the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development whether an applicant meets the criteria for reimbursement and shall recommend the reimbursement amount. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall make the final determination for actual reimbursement.
- (5) MARKETING REQUIREMENTS.--The Office of Film and Entertainment shall ensure appropriate marketing materials, including promotions of this state as a tourist or filming destination, are required when appropriate to be included on any filmed entertainment as a condition of receiving a tax credit under this section. The Office of Film and

Entertainment shall consult with appropriate entities for the development and implementation of marketing materials.

(6) (5) RULES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. --

- (a) The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development shall adopt <u>rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1)</u> and 120.54 policies and procedures to implement this section, including, but not limited to, <u>rules specifying</u> requirements for the application and approval process, records required for <u>submission for</u> substantiation <u>of credit awards</u> for reimbursement, and determination of and qualification for <u>credit awards</u>, and marketing requirements for credit recipients <u>reimbursement</u>.
- (b) The Department of Revenue may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to administer the provisions of this section, including rules governing the manner and form of documentation required to claim tax credits granted or transferred under this section, and may establish guidelines as to the requisites for an affirmative showing of qualification for tax credits granted or transferred under this section.
 - (7)(6) FRAUDULENT CLAIMS.--
- (a) Any applicant who submits an application under this section that includes fraudulent information shall be liable for reimbursement of the reasonable costs and fees associated with the review, processing, investigation, and prosecution of the application.
- (b) An eligible entity or company that obtains a <u>credit</u> payment under this section through a claim that it knows is fraudulent is liable for reimbursement of the <u>credit</u> amount paid plus a penalty in an amount double the <u>credit</u> payment and

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reimbursement of reasonable costs, which penalty is in addition to any criminal penalty to which the entity or company is liable for the same acts, plus interest. The entity or company is also liable for costs and fees incurred by the state in investigating and prosecuting the fraudulent claim.

- (8)(7) ANNUAL REPORT.--The Office of Film and Entertainment shall provide an annual report for the previous state fiscal year, due October 1, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives outlining the return on investment to the state on tax credits awarded funds expended pursuant to this section.
- (9) REPEAL.--This section is repealed July 1, 2014.

 Section 4. Subsection (5) of section 477.0135, Florida

 Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 477.0135 Exemptions.--

- (5) A license is not required of any individual providing makeup, special effects, or cosmetology services to an actor, stunt person, musician, extra, or other talent during a production recognized by the Office of Film and Entertainment as a qualified production as defined in s. 220.192 288.1254(2). Such services are not required to be performed in a licensed salon. Individuals exempt under this subsection may not provide such services to the general public.
 - Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.