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FOR CONSIDERATION By the Committee on Commerce and Tourism

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the entertainment industry;

amending s 288 125 F.S.: specifying the application

amending s. 288.125, F.S.; specifying the application of the term "entertainment industry"; transferring, renumbering, and amending s. 288.1251, F.S.; renaming the Office of Film and Entertainment within the Department of Economic Opportunity as the Division of Film and Entertainment and housing the division within Enterprise Florida, Inc.; requiring Enterprise Florida, Inc., to conduct a national search for a film commissioner; requiring the president of Enterprise Florida, Inc., to hire the film commissioner; revising the requirements of the division's 5-year plan; transferring, renumbering, and amending s. 288.1252, F.S.; revising the powers and duties of the Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; transferring, renumbering, and amending s. 288.1253, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 288.1254, F.S.; redefining and deleting terms; requiring the department, rather than the Office of Film and Entertainment, to be responsible for applications for the entertainment industry financial incentive program; revising provisions relating to the application process, tax credit eligibility, election and distribution of tax credits, annual allocation of tax credits, forfeiture of tax credits, and annual report; extending the repeal date; conforming provisions to changes made by the act;

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specifying a date on which the applications on file with the department and not yet certified are deemed denied; amending s. 288.1258, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; requiring the department to develop a standardized application form in cooperation with the division and other agencies; amending s. 288.92, F.S.; requiring Enterprise Florida, Inc., to have a division relating to film and entertainment; amending ss. 212.08, 220.1899, and 477.0135, F.S.; conforming cross-references and provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 288.125, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.125 Definition of "entertainment industry".—For the purposes of ss. 288.1254, 288.1258, 288.924, and 288.9241 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-for-television movies, television programming, digital media projects, commercial advertising, music videos, or sound recordings; 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

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programming, digital media projects, commercial advertising, music videos, or sound recordings, including, but not limited to, the broadcast industry.

Section 2. Section 288.1251, Florida Statutes, is transferred, renumbered as section 288.924, Florida Statutes, and amended to read:

288.924 288.1251 Promotion and development of entertainment industry; <u>Division</u> Office of Film and Entertainment; creation; purpose; powers and duties.—

- (1) CREATION.-
- (a) The Division of Film and Entertainment is There is hereby created within Enterprise Florida, Inc., the department the Office of Film and Entertainment for the purpose of developing, marketing, promoting, and providing services to the state's entertainment industry. The division shall serve as a liaison between the entertainment industry and other state and local governmental agencies, local film commissions, and labor organizations.
- (2) (b) COMMISSIONER.—Enterprise Florida, Inc., The department shall conduct a national search for a qualified person to fill the position of Commissioner of Film and Entertainment when the position is vacant. The president of Enterprise Florida, Inc., executive director of the department has the responsibility to hire the film commissioner. Qualifications for the film commissioner include, but are not limited to, the following:
- (a) 1. A working knowledge of the equipment, personnel, financial, and day-to-day production operations of the industries to be served by the division Office of Film and

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Entertainment;

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(b) 2. Marketing and promotion experience related to the film and entertainment industries to be served;

- $\underline{\text{(c)}}$ Experience working with a variety of individuals representing large and small entertainment-related businesses, industry associations, local community entertainment industry liaisons, and labor organizations; and
- (d) 4. Experience working with a variety of state and local governmental agencies.
 - (3) (2) POWERS AND DUTIES.—
- (a) The $\underline{\text{Division}}$ $\underline{\text{Office}}$ of Film and Entertainment, in performance of its duties, shall develop and:
- 1. In consultation with the Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council, update a 5-year the strategic plan every 5 years to guide the activities of the division Office of Film and Entertainment in the areas of entertainment industry development, marketing, promotion, liaison services, field office administration, and information. The plan shall:
 - a. be annual in construction and ongoing in nature.
 - 1. At a minimum, the plan must discuss the following:
- <u>a.b.</u> Include recommendations relating to The organizational structure of the <u>division</u>, including any field offices outside the state.
- b. The coordination of the division with local or regional offices maintained by counties and regions of the state, local film commissions, and labor organizations, and the coordination of such entities with each other to facilitate a working relationship office.
 - c. Strategies to identify, solicit, and recruit

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117 entertainment production opportunities for the state, including 118 implementation of programs for rural and urban areas designed to 119 develop and promote the state's entertainment industry. 120 d.e. Include An annual budget projection for the division 121 office for each year of the plan. 122 d. Include an operational model for the office to use in 123 implementing programs for rural and urban areas designed to: 124 (I) develop and promote the state's entertainment industry. 125 (II) Have the office serve as a liaison between the 126 entertainment industry and other state and local governmental 127 agencies, local film commissions, and labor organizations. 128 (III) Gather statistical information related to the state's 129 entertainment industry. e. (IV) Provision of Provide information and service to 130 businesses, communities, organizations, and individuals engaged 131 132 in entertainment industry activities. 133 (V) Administer field offices outside the state and 134 coordinate with regional offices maintained by counties and 135 regions of the state, as described in sub-sub-subparagraph (II), 136 as necessary. 137 f.e. Include Performance standards and measurable outcomes 138 for the programs to be implemented by the division office. 139 2. The plan shall be annually reviewed and approved by the 140 board of directors of Enterprise Florida, Inc. f. Include an assessment of, and make recommendations on, 141 142 the feasibility of creating an alternative public-private 143 partnership for the purpose of contracting with such a 144 partnership for the administration of the state's entertainment

industry promotion, development, marketing, and service

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programs.

- 2. Develop, market, and facilitate a working relationship between state agencies and local governments in cooperation with local film commission offices for out-of-state and indigenous entertainment industry production entities.
- 3. Implement a structured methodology prescribed for coordinating activities of local offices with each other and the commissioner's office.
 - (b) The division shall also:
- 1.4. Represent the state's indigenous entertainment industry to key decisionmakers within the national and international entertainment industry, and to state and local officials.
- 2.5. Prepare an inventory and analysis of the state's entertainment industry, including, but not limited to, information on crew, related businesses, support services, job creation, talent, and economic impact and coordinate with local offices to develop an information tool for common use.
- 6. Identify, solicit, and recruit entertainment production opportunities for the state.
- 3.7. Assist rural communities and other small communities in the state in developing the expertise and capacity necessary for such communities to develop, market, promote, and provide services to the state's entertainment industry.
- (c) (b) The division Office of Film and Entertainment, in the performance of its duties, may:
- 1. Conduct or contract for specific promotion and marketing functions, including, but not limited to, production of a statewide directory, production and maintenance of an Internet

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website, establishment and maintenance of a toll-free <u>telephone</u> number, organization of trade show participation, and appropriate cooperative marketing opportunities.

- 2. Conduct its affairs, carry on its operations, establish offices, and exercise the powers granted by this act in any state, territory, district, or possession of the United States.
- 3. Carry out any program of information, special events, or publicity designed to attract entertainment industry to Florida.
- 4. Develop relationships and leverage resources with other public and private organizations or groups in their efforts to publicize to the entertainment industry in this state, other states, and other countries the depth of Florida's entertainment industry talent, crew, production companies, production equipment resources, related businesses, and support services, including the establishment of and expenditure for a program of cooperative advertising with these public and private organizations and groups in accordance with the provisions of chapter 120.
- 5. Provide and arrange for reasonable and necessary promotional items and services for such persons as the <u>division</u> office deems proper in connection with the performance of the promotional and other duties of the division office.
- 6. Prepare an annual economic impact analysis on entertainment industry-related activities in the state.
- 7. Request or accept any grant, payment, or gift of funds or property made by this state, the United States, or any department or agency thereof, or by any individual, firm, corporation, municipality, county, or organization, for any or all of the purposes of the Office of Film and Entertainment's 5-

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year strategic plan or those permitted activities enumerated in this paragraph. Such funds shall be deposited in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund of the Executive Office of the Covernor for use by the Office of Film and Entertainment in carrying out its responsibilities and duties as delineated in law. The division office may expend such funds in accordance with the terms and conditions of any such grant, payment, or gift in the pursuit of its administration or in support of fulfilling its duties and responsibilities. The division office shall separately account for the public funds and the private funds deposited into the trust fund.

- Section 3. Section 288.1252, Florida Statutes, is transferred, renumbered as section 288.9242, Florida Statutes, and amended to read:
- 288.9242 288.1252 Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council; creation; purpose; membership; powers and duties.—
- (1) CREATION.—There is created within the department, for administrative purposes only, the Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council.
- (1) (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council is to serve as an advisory body to the Division of Film and Entertainment department and to the Office of Film and Entertainment to provide these offices with industry insight and expertise related to developing, marketing, and promoting, and providing service to the state's entertainment industry.
 - (2) MEMBERSHIP.
- (a) The council shall consist of 17 members, 7 to be appointed by the Governor, 5 to be appointed by the President of

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the Senate, and 5 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

- (b) When making appointments to the council, the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint persons who are residents of the state and who are highly knowledgeable of, active in, and recognized leaders in Florida's motion picture, television, video, sound recording, or other entertainment industries. These persons shall include, but not be limited to, representatives of local film commissions, representatives of entertainment associations, a representative of the broadcast industry, representatives of labor organizations in the entertainment industry, and board chairs, presidents, chief executive officers, chief operating officers, or persons of comparable executive position or stature of leading or otherwise important entertainment industry businesses and offices. Council members shall be appointed in such a manner as to equitably represent the broadest spectrum of the entertainment industry and geographic areas of the state.
 - (c) Council members shall serve for 4-year terms.
- (d) Subsequent appointments shall be made by the official who appointed the council member whose expired term is to be filled.
- (e) A representative of Enterprise Florida, Inc., A representative of Workforce Florida, Inc., and a representative of VISIT Florida shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the council, and shall be in addition to the 17 appointed members of the council.
 - (f) Absence from three consecutive meetings shall result in

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automatic removal from the council.

- (g) A vacancy on the council shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the official who appointed the vacating member.
- (h) No more than one member of the council may be an employee of any one company, organization, or association.
- (i) Any member shall be eligible for reappointment but may not serve more than two consecutive terms.
 - (3) (4) MEETINGS; ORGANIZATION. -
- (a) The council shall meet no less frequently than once each quarter of the calendar year, but may meet more often as set by the council.
- (b) The council shall annually elect from its appointed membership one member to serve as chair of the council and one member to serve as vice chair. The <u>Division of Film and Entertainment Office of Film and Entertainment</u> shall provide staff assistance to the council, which shall include, but not be limited to, keeping records of the proceedings of the council, and serving as custodian of all books, documents, and papers filed with the council.
- (c) A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum.
- (d) Members of the council shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061 while in performance of their duties.
- (4)(5) POWERS AND DUTIES.—The Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council shall have all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes

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and provisions of this act, including, but not limited to, the power to:

- (a) Adopt bylaws for the governance of its affairs and the conduct of its business.
- (b) Advise the Division of Film and Entertainment and consult with the Office of Film and Entertainment on the content, development, and implementation of the 5-year strategic plan to guide the activities of the office.
- (c) Review the Commissioner of Film and Entertainment's administration of the programs related to the strategic plan, and Advise the Division of Film and Entertainment commissioner on its the programs and any changes that might be made to better meet the strategic plan.
- (d) Consider and study the needs of the entertainment industry for the purpose of advising the <u>Division of Film and Entertainment film commissioner and the department</u>.
- (e) Identify and make recommendations on state agency and local government actions that may have an impact on the entertainment industry or that may appear to industry representatives as an official state or local action affecting production in the state, and advise the Division of Film and Entertainment of such actions.
- (f) Consider all matters submitted to it by the $\underline{\text{Division of}}$ $\underline{\text{Film and Entertainment}}$ $\underline{\text{film commissioner and the department}}$.
- (g) Advise and consult with the film commissioner and the department, at their request or upon its own initiative, regarding the promulgation, administration, and enforcement of all laws and rules relating to the entertainment industry.
 - (g) (h) Suggest policies and practices for the conduct of

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business by the Office of Film and Entertainment or by the department that will improve interaction with internal operations affecting the entertainment industry and will enhance the economic development in initiatives of the state for the industry.

(i) Appear on its own behalf before boards, commissions, departments, or other agencies of municipal, county, or state government, or the Federal Government.

Section 4. Section 288.1253, Florida Statutes, is transferred, renumbered as section 288.9241, Florida Statutes, and amended to read:

288.9241 288.1253 Travel and entertainment expenses.-

- (1) As used in this section, the term "travel expenses" means the actual, necessary, and reasonable costs of transportation, meals, lodging, and incidental expenses normally incurred by an employee of the <u>Division Office</u> of Film and Entertainment, which costs are defined and prescribed by rules adopted by the department, subject to approval by the Chief Financial Officer.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 112.061, the department shall adopt rules by which the Division of Film and Entertainment it may make expenditures by reimbursement to: the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, security staff of the Governor or Lieutenant Governor, the Commissioner of Film and Entertainment, or staff of the Division Office of Film and Entertainment for travel expenses or entertainment expenses incurred by such individuals solely and exclusively in connection with the performance of the statutory duties of the division Office of Film and Entertainment. The rules are subject

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to approval by the Chief Financial Officer before adoption. The rules shall require the submission of paid receipts, or other proof of expenditure prescribed by the Chief Financial Officer, with any claim for reimbursement.

- (3) The <u>Division</u> 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 <u>division's office's</u> 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.
- (4) The <u>Division Office</u> of Film and Entertainment and its employees and representatives, when authorized, may accept and use complimentary travel, accommodations, meeting space, meals, equipment, transportation, and any other goods or services necessary for or beneficial to the performance of the <u>division's office's</u> duties and purposes, so long as such acceptance or use is not in conflict with part III of chapter 112. The department shall, by rule, develop internal controls to ensure that such goods or services accepted or used pursuant to this subsection are limited to those that will assist solely and exclusively in the furtherance of the <u>division's office's</u> goals and are in compliance with part III of chapter 112.
- (5) Any claim submitted under this section is not required to be sworn to before a notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths, but any claim authorized or

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required to be made under any provision of this section shall contain a statement that the expenses were actually incurred as necessary travel or entertainment expenses in the performance of official duties of the Division Office of Film and Entertainment and shall be verified by written declaration that it is true and correct as to every material matter. Any person who willfully makes and subscribes to any claim which he or she does not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter or who willfully aids or assists in, procures, or counsels or advises with respect to, the preparation or presentation of a claim pursuant to this section that is fraudulent or false as to any material matter, whether such falsity or fraud is with the knowledge or consent of the person authorized or required to present the claim, commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Whoever receives a reimbursement by means of a false claim is civilly liable, in the amount of the overpayment, for the reimbursement of the public fund from which the claim was paid.

Section 5. Section 288.1254, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.1254 Entertainment industry financial incentive program.—

- (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Certified production" means a qualified production that has tax credits allocated to it by the department based on the production's estimated qualified expenditures, 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

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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 submits an application for continuing the same production 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 or production intended for Internet or wireless distribution, an 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 that contains content that is obscene as defined in s. 847.001.
- (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:
- 1. A production created to run multiple production seasons which has and having an estimated order of at least seven episodes per season and qualified expenditures of at least \$625,000 per episode; or
- 2. A telenovela that has qualified expenditures of more than \$4.5 million; a minimum of 45 principal photography days filmed in this state; a production cast, including background actors, and crew of which at least 90 percent are legal residents of this state; and at least 90 percent of its production occurring in this state.

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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.

 $\underline{\text{(e)}}$ "Principal photography" means the filming of major or significant components of the qualified production which involve lead actors.

(f) (g) "Production" means a theatrical, or direct-to-video, or direct-to-internet 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 direct-to-internet television series; 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 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, or Internet-distributed-only news show 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;

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computer; any combination of the foregoing; or any other means, method, or device.

- (g) (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.
- 3. Net expenditures for rental equipment, including, but not limited to, cameras and grip or electrical equipment.
- 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.
- 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.
 - (h) (i) "Qualified expenditures" means production

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expenditures incurred in this state by a qualified production for:

- 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 location in this state, and employs one or more legal residents of this state. 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.
- 2. Payments to legal residents of this state in the form of salary, wages, or other compensation up to a maximum of \$400,000 per resident unless otherwise specified in subsection (4). A completed declaration of residency in this state must accompany the documentation submitted to the <u>department</u> of or reimbursement.

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

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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.

- <u>(i) (j)</u> "Qualified production" means a production in this state meeting the requirements of this section. The term does not include a production:
- 1. In which, for the first 2 years of the incentive program, less than 50 percent, and thereafter, less than 70 60 percent, of the positions that make up its production cast and below-the-line production crew, or, in the case of digital media projects, less than 80 75 percent of such positions, are filled by legal residents of this state, whose residency is demonstrated by a valid Florida driver driver's 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; or
- 2. That contains obscene content as defined in s. 847.001(10).
- (j) (k) "Qualified production company" means a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or other legal entity engaged in 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

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components of qualified productions.

(m) "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 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.

(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

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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.
- (k) (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 department before 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.—The entertainment industry financial incentive program is created within the

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Office of Film and Entertainment. The purpose of this program is to encourage the use of this state as a site for entertainment production, for filming, and for the digital production of entertainment films, and to develop and sustain the workforce and infrastructure for film, digital media, and entertainment production.

- (3) APPLICATION PROCEDURE; APPROVAL PROCESS.-
- (a) Program application.—A qualified production company producing a qualified production in this state may submit a program application to the <u>department Office of Film and Entertainment</u> for the purpose of determining qualification for an award of tax credits authorized by this section no earlier than <u>150</u> 180 days before the first day of principal photography or project start date in this state. The applicant shall provide the <u>department</u> 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 <u>department</u> office to determine eligibility for the tax credit.
- (b) Required documentation.—The department Office of Film and Entertainment shall develop an application form for qualifying an applicant as a qualified production. 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 aggregate nonqualified expenditures in this state, proof of financing for the production, proof of local financial commitment, and the applicant's signed affirmation that the information on the form has been verified and is correct. The Division Office of Film

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and Entertainment of Enterprise Florida, Inc., and local film commissions shall distribute the form.

- (c) Application process.—The department Office of Film and Entertainment shall establish a process by which an application is accepted and reviewed and by which tax credit eligibility and award amount are determined. The department may consult with the Division Office of Film and Entertainment of Enterprise Florida, Inc., or may request assistance from a duly appointed local film commission in determining compliance with this section.
- 1. Applications may be accepted until, and shall include, the application that causes the amount of tax credit eligibility requested to exceed 125 percent of tax credits allocated for the fiscal year under paragraph (7)(a). Applications received after all tax credits allocated for the fiscal year have been certified shall be assigned a queue number that is determined by the date and time the application was received by the department. Applications in the queue are deemed denied on June 30 of each year.
- 2. A certified high-impact television series may submit an initial application for no more than two successive seasons, notwithstanding the fact that the second season has successive season's qualified expenditure amounts for the second season 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. To be certified for credits, the applicant must provide proof that the additional season has been ordered as part of the application for the additional season.

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3. An applicant must submit proof of financial commitment by each county in which the applicant will engage in principal photography or project production. The financial commitment must be a cash match equal to 10 percent of the total amount of credit applied for by the applicant. If at least 70 percent of the production occurs within a county designated as an underutilized county at the time that the production is certified, the cash match must equal 5 percent of the total amount of credit applied for by the applicant. The term "underutilized county" means a county in which less than \$500,000 in qualified expenditures were made in the last 2 fiscal years.

- (d) Certification. -
- 1. The department Office of Film and Entertainment shall review the application within 15 business days after receipt. Upon the department's its determination, in consultation with the Division of Film and Entertainment of Enterprise Florida, Inc., that the application contains all the information required by this subsection and meets the criteria set out in this section, the department Office of Film and Entertainment shall deny 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 application recommendation or certify the maximum recommended tax credit award in an amount reduced by 5 percent or 10 percent, as required in subparagraph (c)3., if any funds are available, to the applicant and to the executive director of the Department of Revenue.

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2. In a fiscal year, the department may certify only the amount of tax credits allocated for that fiscal year, as provided under subsection (7). However, the department may certify a high-impact television series for additional tax credits allocated in a future fiscal year if the high-impact television series has an executed contract or order for season renewal effective for the future fiscal year from which tax credits would be allocated. The department may certify one additional ordered season per future fiscal year in which the qualified production would occur.

- (e) Employment.—Upon certification by the department, the production must provide the department and the Division of Film and Entertainment of Enterprise Florida, Inc., with a single point of contact and information related to the production's needs for cast, crew, contractors, and vendors. The division shall publish this information online, including the type of production, the projected start date of the production, the locations in this state for such production, and the e-mail or other contact information for the production's point of contact. The department, in consultation with the division, may adopt procedures for a production to post such information itself within 7 days after certification.
 - (f) (e) Grounds for denial.
- 1. The <u>department</u> 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, or there are no additional credits for certification as provided under paragraph (c). Within 90 days after submitting a program application, except with respect

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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 denied withdrawn may submit a new application upon providing the Office of Film and Entertainment proof of financing.

- 2. The department shall deny a certified production upon any circumstance affecting the reasonable schedule or timely completion of the certified production, including a break in production, change in the production schedule, or loss of financing for the production. A certified production must notify the department within 5 days after any circumstance affecting its timely completion. A certified production may not be denied if it provides the department with proof of replacement financing within 10 days after the loss of financing for the production. To keep a reasonable schedule, the certified production must begin 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.
 - (g) (f) Verification of actual qualified expenditures.-
- 1. The <u>department</u>, in consultation with the Division of Film and Entertainment, 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 certified production to submit, within 180 days in a timely manner after production ends in this state and after making all of its qualified expenditures in this state, data substantiating each qualified expenditure, including

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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. 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 the required substantiating data, to the <u>department</u> Office of Film and Entertainment; and
- c. The <u>department</u> Office of Film and Entertainment to review the accountant's submittal and <u>verify</u> report to the <u>department</u> the final <u>verified</u> amount of actual qualified expenditures made by the certified production.
- 2. The department shall verify that the qualified production received the local financial commitment required under paragraph (c). If the qualified production did not meet this requirement, the department shall deny the total tax credit award amount.
- 3.2. The department 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 evidence that the qualified production met the requirements of this section. The department 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).
- (h) (g) Promoting Florida.—The department Office of Film and Entertainment shall ensure that, as a condition of receiving a

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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 opening titles and 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 such logo shall be commensurate to other logos used. If no logos are used, the statement "Filmed in Florida using Florida's Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive," or a similar statement approved by the Division Office of Film and Entertainment of Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall be used. The Division Office of Film and Entertainment of Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall provide a logo and supply it for the purposes specified in this paragraph. 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 Division Commissioner of Film and Entertainment of Enterprise Florida, Inc.

- (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

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qualified production for tax credit awards must be determined on a first-come, first-served basis within its appropriate queue. Each qualified production must be placed into the appropriate queue and is subject to the requirements of that queue.

- (b) Tax credit eligibility.-
- 1. General production queue.—Ninety-four percent of tax credits authorized pursuant to subsection (7) (6) in any state fiscal year must be dedicated to the general production 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. 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. For the first 10 months of each fiscal year, 20 percent of the credits in the general production queue shall be set aside for qualified productions in underutilized counties. A qualified production eligible for these funds is a production for which at least 70 percent of its principal photography days occur within an underutilized county designated as an underutilized county at the time that the production is certified. The term "underutilized county" means a county in which less than \$500,000 in qualified expenditures were made in the last 2 fiscal years. Any funds not yet certified from this set-aside at the end of the 10-month period may be certified to

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qualified productions pursuant to this section 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-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.

<u>b.c.</u> 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 high-

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

c.e. A qualified production is eligible for an additional 15 percent tax credit on qualified expenditures that are wages, salaries, or other compensation paid to the following individuals employed by the 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, individuals participating in the Road-to-Independence Program under s. 409.1451, individuals with developmental disabilities as defined under s. 393.063 residing in this state, veterans residing in this state, and individuals 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

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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 cligible for an additional 5 percent tax credit on actual qualified expenditures for production activity at that facility.
- d. A qualified production that completes a capital investment of at least \$2 million before the completion of the qualified production is eligible for an additional 5 percent tax credit. The capital investment must be permanent and must remain in this state after the production ends in this state.
- $\underline{\text{e.g.}}$ A qualified production is not eligible for tax credits provided under this paragraph totaling more than $\underline{25}$ percent $\underline{30}$ percent of its actual qualified expenses.
- 2. Commercial and music video queue.—Three percent of tax credits authorized pursuant to subsection (7) (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

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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 department 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 (7) (6) in 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 department 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

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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.
 - (c) (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,

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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 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.
- (d) (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 or 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.
- (e) (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.
- (f) (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

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their respective distributive income or loss in the taxable year in which the tax credits were awarded.

- (g) (h) Mergers or acquisitions.—Tax credits available under this section to a certified production company may succeed to a 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)(f) (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

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production company awarded the tax credit, except that the initial transferee shall be permitted a one-time transfer of 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.
 - 3. For fiscal years 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and

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1074 2015-2016, \$42 million per fiscal year.

- 4. Beginning July 1, 2014, for fiscal years 2014-2015 and 2015-2016, an additional \$50 million per fiscal year.
- 5. Beginning July 1, 2016, for fiscal years 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020, \$50 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)(g)2. (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) Amounts available on and after July 1, 2014, for certification may not be certified before the fiscal year in which the amounts are listed in paragraph (a), except as provided in subparagraph (3)(d)2. 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.

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- (8) RULES, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES.—
- (a) The department may adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 and develop policies and procedures to implement and administer this section, including, but not limited to, rules specifying requirements for the application and approval process, records required for substantiation for tax credits, procedures for making the election in paragraph (4)(c) (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 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

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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.

- (c) Forfeiture of tax credits.—A determination by the Department of Revenue, as a result of an audit pursuant to paragraph (a) or from information received from the <u>department or the Division Office</u> of Film and Entertainment of Enterprise Florida, Inc., 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).
- (d) Fraudulent claims.—Any applicant that submits 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 credit payment under this section through a claim that is fraudulent is liable for reimbursement of the credit amount plus a penalty in an

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amount double the 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 department 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. 288.9241 s. 288.1253(3) and the information describing the relationship between tax exemptions and incentives to industry growth required under s. 288.1258(5). The department may work with the Division of Film and Entertainment of Enterprise Florida, Inc., to develop the annual report.
- (11) REPEAL.—This section is repealed <u>July 1, 2020</u> July 1, $\frac{1}{1}$ 2016, except that:
- (a) Tax credits certified under paragraph (3)(d) before <u>July 1, 2020</u> July 1, 2016, may be awarded under paragraph (3)(g) (3)(f) on or after <u>July 1, 2020</u> July 1, 2016, if the other requirements of this section are met.
- (b) Tax credits carried forward under paragraph $\underline{(4)(d)}$ (4) (e) remain valid for the period specified.

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(c) Subsections (5), (8), and (9) shall remain in effect until July 1, 2025 $\frac{1}{3}$ July 1, 2021.

Section 6. <u>Beginning July 1, 2014</u>, applications on file with the Department of Economic Opportunity to receive a tax credit through the entertainment industry financial incentive program under s. 288.1254, Florida Statutes, which are not yet certified are deemed denied.

Section 7. 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.—

- (1) PRODUCTION COMPANIES AUTHORIZED TO APPLY.-
- (a) Any production company engaged in this state in the production of motion pictures, made-for-TV motion pictures, television series, commercial advertising, music videos, or sound recordings may submit an application to the Department of Revenue to be approved by the <u>department</u> Office of Film and Entertainment as a qualified production company for the purpose of receiving a sales and use tax certificate of exemption from the Department of Revenue.
- (b) As used in For the purposes of this section, the term "qualified production company" means any production company that has submitted a properly completed application to the Department of Revenue and that is subsequently qualified by the department Office of Film and Entertainment.
 - (2) APPLICATION PROCEDURE.
- (a) The Department of Revenue will review all submitted applications for the required information. Within 10 working

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days after the receipt of a properly completed application, the Department of Revenue will forward the completed application to the department Office of Film and Entertainment for approval.

- (b)1. The <u>department</u> Office of Film and Entertainment shall establish a process by which an entertainment industry production company may be approved by the <u>department</u> office as a qualified production company and may receive a certificate of exemption from the Department of Revenue for the sales and use tax exemptions under ss. 212.031, 212.06, and 212.08.
- 2. Upon determination by the <u>department</u> Office of Film and Entertainment that a production company meets the established approval criteria and qualifies for exemption, the <u>department</u> Office of Film and Entertainment shall return the approved application or application renewal or extension to the Department of Revenue, which shall issue a certificate of exemption.
- 3. The <u>department</u> Office of Film and Entertainment shall deny an application or application for renewal or extension from a production company if it determines that the production company does not meet the established approval criteria.
- (c) The <u>department</u> Office of Film and Entertainment shall develop, with the cooperation of the Department of Revenue, the <u>Division of Film and Entertainment of Enterprise Florida, Inc.</u>, and local government entertainment industry promotion agencies, a standardized application form for use in approving qualified production companies.
- 1. The application form shall include, but not be limited to, production-related information on employment, proposed budgets, planned purchases of items exempted from sales and use

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taxes under ss. 212.031, 212.06, and 212.08, a signed affirmation from the applicant that any items purchased for which the applicant is seeking a tax exemption are intended for use exclusively as an integral part of entertainment industry preproduction, production, or postproduction activities engaged in primarily in this state, and a signed affirmation from the department Office of Film and Entertainment that the information on the application form has been verified and is correct. In lieu of information on projected employment, proposed budgets, or planned purchases of exempted items, a production company seeking a 1-year certificate of exemption may submit summary historical data on employment, production budgets, and purchases of exempted items related to production activities in this state. Any information gathered from production companies for the purposes of this section shall be considered confidential taxpayer information and shall be disclosed only as provided in s. 213.053.

- 2. The application form may be distributed to applicants by the <u>department</u>, the <u>Division</u> Office of Film and Entertainment of Enterprise Florida, Inc., or local film commissions.
- (d) All applications, renewals, and extensions for designation as a qualified production company shall be processed by the department Office of Film and Entertainment.
- (e) If In the event that the Department of Revenue determines that a production company no longer qualifies for a certificate of exemption, or has used a certificate of exemption for purposes other than those authorized by this section and chapter 212, the Department of Revenue shall revoke the certificate of exemption of that production company, and any

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sales or use taxes exempted on items purchased or leased by the production company during the time such company did not qualify for a certificate of exemption or improperly used a certificate of exemption shall become immediately due to the Department of Revenue, along with interest and penalty as provided by s. 212.12. In addition to the other penalties imposed by law, any person who knowingly and willfully falsifies an application, or uses a certificate of exemption for purposes other than those authorized by this section and chapter 212, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in ss. 775.082, 775.083, and 775.084.

(3) CATEGORIES.—

- (a)1. A production company may be qualified for designation as a qualified production company for a period of 1 year if the company has operated a business in Florida at a permanent address for a period of 12 consecutive months. Such a qualified production company shall receive a single 1-year certificate of exemption from the Department of Revenue for the sales and use tax exemptions under ss. 212.031, 212.06, and 212.08, which certificate shall expire 1 year after issuance or upon the cessation of business operations in the state, at which time the certificate shall be surrendered to the Department of Revenue.
- 2. The <u>department</u> Office of Film and Entertainment shall develop a method by which a qualified production company may annually renew a 1-year certificate of exemption for a period of up to 5 years without requiring the production company to resubmit a new application during that 5-year period.
- 3. Any qualified production company may submit a new application for a 1-year certificate of exemption upon the

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expiration of that company's certificate of exemption.

- (b) 1. A production company may be qualified for designation as a qualified production company for a period of 90 days. Such production company shall receive a single 90-day certificate of exemption from the Department of Revenue for the sales and use tax exemptions under ss. 212.031, 212.06, and 212.08, which certificate shall expire 90 days after issuance, with extensions contingent upon approval of the <u>department</u> Office of Film and Entertainment. The certificate shall be surrendered to the Department of Revenue upon its expiration.
- 2. Any production company may submit a new application for a 90-day certificate of exemption upon the expiration of that company's certificate of exemption.
 - (4) DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE.
- (a) The Department of Revenue shall review the initial application and notify the applicant of any omissions and request additional information if needed. An application shall be complete upon receipt of all requested information. The Department of Revenue shall forward all complete applications to the <u>department</u> Office of Film and Entertainment within 10 working days.
- (b) The Department of Revenue shall issue a numbered certificate of exemption to a qualified production company within 5 working days of the receipt of an approved application, application renewal, or application extension from the department Office of Film and Entertainment.
- (c) The Department of Revenue may <u>adopt</u> promulgate such rules and shall prescribe and publish such forms as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section or any of

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the sales tax exemptions which are reasonably related to the provisions of this section.

- (d) The Department of Revenue <u>may</u> is authorized to establish audit procedures in accordance with the provisions of ss. 212.12, 212.13, and 213.34 which relate to the sales tax exemption provisions of this section.
- (5) RELATIONSHIP OF TAX EXEMPTIONS AND INCENTIVES TO INDUSTRY GROWTH; REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE.—The department 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 department office shall maintain data showing annual growth in Floridabased 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 department 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).

Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 288.92, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

288.92 Divisions of Enterprise Florida, Inc.-

(1) Enterprise Florida, Inc., may create and dissolve divisions as necessary to carry out its mission. Each division

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shall have distinct responsibilities and complementary missions.

At a minimum, Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall have divisions

related to the following areas:

- (a) International Trade and Business Development;
- (b) Business Retention and Recruitment;
- (c) Tourism Marketing;
- (d) Minority Business Development; and
- (e) Sports Industry Development; and
- 1372 (f) Film and Entertainment.

Section 9. Paragraph (q) of subsection (5) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended 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.-
- (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

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unused amount of the credit may be carried forward to a succeeding reporting period as provided in $\underline{s.\ 288.1254(4)(d)}\ \underline{s.}\ 288.1254(4)(e)$. 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 10. Subsection (3) of section 220.1899, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

220.1899 Entertainment industry tax credit.-

(3) To the extent that the amount of a tax credit exceeds the amount due on a return, the balance of the credit may be carried forward to a succeeding taxable year pursuant to \underline{s} . 288.1254(4)(d) \underline{s} . 288.1254(4)(e).

Section 11. 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 Department of Economic Opportunity the Office of Film and Entertainment as a qualified production as defined in s. 288.1254(1). 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 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.