SENATE BILL 565

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

William H. Payne

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE FILM PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT ACT; LIMITING THE
TYPES OF DIRECT PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES THAT MAY BE ELIGIBLE
FOR ADDITIONAL CREDIT; REDUCING THE CREDIT AMOUNT FOR THE USE
OF NONRESIDENT INDUSTRY CREW; EXCLUDING PAYMENTS TO CERTAIN
ARTISTS FROM THE LIMITATION OF DIRECT PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES;
AMENDING THE DEFINITIONS USED IN THE FILM PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT
ACT; LIMITING THE TYPES OF DIRECT PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES PAID
TO A NONRESIDENT PERFORMING ARTIST THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE
CREDIT; REDEFINING "QUALIFIED PRODUCTION FACILITY".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 7-2F-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2002, Chapter 36, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-2F-1. FILM PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT.--

A. The tax credit created by this section may be .199515.5

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referred to as the "film production tax credit".

- B. Except as otherwise provided in this section, an eligible film production company may apply for, and the taxation and revenue department may allow, subject to the limitation in this section, a tax credit in an amount equal to [the percentage specified in Subsection B of this section] twenty-five percent of:
- direct production expenditures made in New Mexico that:
- (a) are directly attributable to the production in New Mexico of a film or commercial audiovisual product;
- are subject to taxation by the state of New Mexico;
- exclude direct production (c) expenditures for which another taxpayer claims the film production tax credit; and
- (d) do not exceed the usual and customary cost of the goods or services acquired when purchased by unrelated parties. The secretary of taxation and revenue may determine the value of the goods or services for purposes of this section when the buyer and seller are affiliated persons or the sale or purchase is not an arm's length transaction: and
- postproduction expenditures made in New .199515.5

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(a) are directly attributable to the production of a commercial film or audiovisual product;

(b) are for services performed in New

Mexico;

(c) are subject to taxation by the state of New Mexico;

(d) exclude postproduction expenditures for which another taxpayer claims the film production tax credit; and

(e) do not exceed the usual and customary cost of the goods or services acquired when purchased by unrelated parties. The secretary of taxation and revenue may determine the value of the goods or services for purposes of this section when the buyer and seller are affiliated persons or the sale or purchase is not an arm's length transaction.

[B. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the percentage to be applied in calculating the amount of the film production tax credit is twenty-five percent.]

C. In addition to the percentage applied pursuant to Subsection B of this section, another five percent shall be applied in calculating the amount of the film production tax credit to direct production expenditures, except expenditures for which a credit may be claimed pursuant to Subsection D of .199515.5

this section:

(1) on a stand-alone pilot intended for series television in New Mexico or on series television productions intended for commercial distribution with an order for at least six episodes in a single season; provided that the New Mexico budget [per episode] for each of those six episodes is fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) or more; and provided further that, on or after July 1, 2015, for film production companies commencing principal photography, direct production expenditures for nonresident performing artists shall not receive the additional five percent provided by this subsection; or

wages and fringe benefits] direct production expenditures paid to a New Mexico resident [directly employed in an industry crew position], excluding a performing artist and background artist, for the duration of production in New Mexico, who is hired as industry crew, or who is either a producer, writer or director working directly with the physical production and who has filed a New Mexico income tax return as a resident in the two previous taxable years, on a production with a total New Mexico budget of:

(\$30,000,000) that shoots at least ten principal photography days <u>in New Mexico</u> at a qualified production facility [in New 199515.5]

Mexico]; provided that a film production company in principal photography on or after April 10, 2015 shall: 1) shoot at least six of those days at a sound stage that is a qualified production facility and the remaining days, if any, at a standing set that is a qualified production facility; and 2) for each of the ten days, include industry crew working on the premises of those facilities for a minimum of eight hours within a twenty-four-hour period; or

(b) thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) or more that shoots at least fifteen principal photography days in New Mexico at a qualified production facility [in New Mexico]; provided that a film production company in principal photography on or after April 10, 2015 shall: 1) shoot at least eight days of those at a sound stage that is a qualified production facility and the remaining days, if any, at a standing set that is a qualified production facility; and 2) for each day of the fifteen days, include industry crew working on the premises of the facility for a minimum of eight hours within a twenty-four-hour period.

D. An eligible film production company may apply

for, and the taxation and revenue department may allow, subject

to the limitation in this section, a tax credit in an amount

equal to fifteen percent of direct production expenditures for

the payment of wages, fringe benefits and per diem for

nonresident industry crew; provided that:

2	rendered in New Mexico;
3	(2) payments for nonresident i
4	exclude payments for production designer, direct
5	photography, line producer, costume designer, st
6	photographer and driver whose sole responsibilit
7	(3) the number of positions of
8	industry crew employed by the film production co
9	entirety of the project, as calculated by the da
10	receipt of the first application for a film prod
11	credit, shall not exceed:
12	(a) four positions for up
13	dollars (\$2,000,000) of the final New Mexico bud
14	(b) one additional positi
15	million dollars (\$1,000,000) of the project's f
16	budget of at least two million dollars (\$2,000,0
17	million dollars (\$10,000,000);
18	(c) one additional positi
19	five million dollars (\$5,000,000) of the project
20	Mexico budget of at least ten million dollars (S
21	to fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000);
22	(d) one additional positi
23	ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) of the project
24	Mexico budget of at least fifty million dollars
25	and thereafter up to a maximum of thirty position
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ndustry crew tor of <u>till unit</u> <u>ty is driving;</u> nonresident ompany for the <u>ivision upon</u> duction tax o to two million dget; <u>ion for each one</u> inal New Mexico <u>000) up to ten</u> <u>ion for each</u> t's final New \$10,000,000) up ion for every t's final New (\$50,000,000) ons; and

(1) the service for which payment is made is

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(e) eight additional positions for a
television pilot episode that has not been ordered to series at
the time of New Mexico production; provided that the film
production company certifies to the division that the series is
intended to be produced in New Mexico if the pilot is ordered
to series: and

(4) the film production company makes

financial or promotional contributions toward educational or

workforce development efforts in New Mexico as determined by
the division, including:

(a) a payment to a New Mexico
educational institution that administers at least one industryrecognized film or multimedia program, as determined by the
division, equal to at least two and one-half percent of the
direct production expenditures for the payment of wages, fringe
benefits and per diem for nonresident industry crew made by the
film production company to nonresident industry crew; or

(b) promotion of the New Mexico film industry by directors, actors or producers affiliated with the film production company's project through: 1) social media that is managed by the state; 2) radio interviews facilitated by the film division; 3) enhanced screen credit acknowledgments; or 4) related events that are facilitated, conducted or sponsored by the division.

 $[\overline{ extsf{D-}}]$ $\underline{ extsf{E.}}$ With respect to expenditures attributable .199515.5

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to a production for which the film production company receives a tax credit pursuant to the federal new markets tax credit program, the percentage to be applied in calculating the film production tax credit is twenty percent.

[E.] F. A claim for film production tax credits shall be filed as part of a return filed pursuant to the Income Tax Act or the Corporate Income and Franchise Tax Act or an information return filed by a pass-through entity. The date a credit claim is received by the department shall determine the order that a credit claim is authorized for payment by the department. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the aggregate amount of the film production tax credit claims that may be authorized for payment in any fiscal year is fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) with respect to the direct production expenditures or postproduction expenditures made on film or commercial audiovisual products. A film production company that submits a claim for a film production tax credit that is unable to receive the tax credit because the claims for the fiscal year exceed the limitation in this subsection shall be placed for the subsequent fiscal year at the front of a queue of film production tax credit claimants submitting claims in the subsequent fiscal year in the order of the date on which the credit was authorized for payment.

 $[F_{\bullet}]$ G_{\bullet} If, in fiscal years 2013 through 2015, the aggregate amount in each fiscal year of the film production tax .199515.5

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credit claims authorized for payment is less than fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000), then the difference in that fiscal year or ten million dollars (\$10,000,000), whichever is less, shall be added to the aggregate amount of the film production tax credit claims that may be authorized for payment pursuant to Subsection [E] \underline{F} of this section in the immediately following fiscal year.

- [G.] H. Except as otherwise provided in this section, credit claims authorized for payment pursuant to the Film Production Tax Credit Act shall be paid pursuant to provisions of the Tax Administration Act to the taxpayer as follows:
- a credit claim amount of less than two million dollars (\$2,000,000) per taxable year shall be paid immediately upon authorization for payment of the credit claim;
- (2) a credit claim amount of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) or more but less than five million dollars (\$5,000,000) per taxable year shall be divided into two equal payments, with the first payment to be made immediately upon authorization of the payment of the credit claim and the second payment to be made twelve months following the date of the first payment; and
- a credit claim amount of five million (3) dollars (\$5,000,000) or more per taxable year shall be divided into three equal payments, with the first payment to be made

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immediately upon authorization of payment of the credit claim, the second payment to be made twelve months following the date of the first payment and the third payment to be made twenty-four months following the date of the first payment.

[H.] I. For a fiscal year in which the amount of total credit claims authorized for payment is less than the aggregate amount of the film production tax credit claims that may be authorized for payment pursuant to this section, the next scheduled payments for credit claims authorized for payment pursuant to Subsection [6] H of this section shall be accelerated for payment for that fiscal year and shall be paid to a taxpayer pursuant to the Tax Administration Act and in the order in which outstanding payments are scheduled in the queue established pursuant to Subsections [E] F and [G] H of this section; provided that the total credit claims authorized for payment shall not exceed the aggregate amount of the film production tax credit claims that may be authorized for payment pursuant to this section. If a partial payment is made pursuant to this subsection, the difference owed shall retain its original position in the queue.

[$rac{1}{4\pi}$] $rac{1}{3\pi}$. Any amount of a credit claim that is carried forward pursuant to Subsection [$rac{1}{6}$] $rac{1}{4}$ of this section shall be subject to the limit on the aggregate amount of credit claims that may be authorized for payment pursuant to Subsections [$rac{1}{4\pi}$] $rac{1}{4\pi}$ and [$rac{1}{4\pi}$] $rac{1}{4\pi}$ of this section in the fiscal year .199515.5

in which that amount is paid.

[J.] K. A credit claim shall only be considered received by the department if the credit claim is made on a complete return filed after the close of the taxable year. All direct production expenditures and postproduction expenditures incurred during the taxable year by a film production company shall be submitted as part of the same income tax return and paid pursuant to this section. A credit claim shall not be divided and submitted with multiple returns or in multiple years.

[K.] L. For purposes of determining the payment of credit claims pursuant to this section, the secretary of taxation and revenue may require that credit claims of affiliated persons be combined into one claim if necessary to accurately reflect closely integrated activities of affiliated persons.

 $[\pm \cdot \cdot]$ M. The film production tax credit shall not be claimed with respect to direct production expenditures or postproduction expenditures for which the film production company has delivered a nontaxable transaction certificate pursuant to Section 7-9-86 NMSA 1978.

 $[M_{\bullet}]$ N_{\bullet} A production for which the film production tax credit is claimed pursuant to Paragraph (1) of Subsection [A] B of this section shall contain an acknowledgment in the end screen credits that the production was filmed in New .199515.5

Mexico, and a state logo provided by the division shall be included in the end screen credits of long-form narrative film productions and television episodes, unless otherwise agreed upon in writing by the film production company and the division.

[N.] O. To be eligible for the film production tax credit, a film production company shall submit to the division information required by the division to demonstrate conformity with the requirements of the Film Production Tax Credit Act, including detailed information on each direct production expenditure and each postproduction expenditure. A film production company shall make reasonable efforts, as determined by the division, to contract with a specialized vendor that provides goods and services, inventory or services directly related to that vendor's ordinary course of business. A film production company shall provide to the division a projection of the film production tax credit claim the film production company plans to submit in the fiscal year. In addition, the film production company shall agree in writing:

- (1) to pay all obligations the film production company has incurred in New Mexico;
- (2) to post a notice at completion of principal photography on the web site of the division that:
- (a) contains production company information, including the name of the production, the address .199515.5

of the production company and contact information that includes a working phone number, fax number and email address for both the local production office and the permanent production office to notify the public of the need to file creditor claims against the film production company; and

- (b) remains posted on the web site until all financial obligations incurred in the state by the film production company have been paid;
- (3) that outstanding obligations are not waived should a creditor fail to file;
- (4) to delay filing of a claim for the film production tax credit until the division delivers written notification to the taxation and revenue department that the film production company has fulfilled all requirements for the credit; and
- (5) to submit a completed application for the film production tax credit and supporting documentation to the division within one year of [making the final] the close of the film production company's taxable year in which expenditures in New Mexico were incurred for the registered project and that are included in the credit claim.
- $[\theta_{ au}]$ $\underline{P}_{ au}$ The division shall determine the eligibility of the company and shall report this information to the taxation and revenue department in a manner and at times the economic development department and the taxation and

revenue department shall agree upon. The division shall also post on its web site all information provided by the film production company that does not reveal revenue, income or other information that may jeopardize the confidentiality of income tax returns, including that the division shall report [monthly] quarterly the projected amount of credit claims for the fiscal year.

[P-] Q. To provide guidance to film production companies regarding the amount of credit capacity remaining in the fiscal year, the taxation and revenue department shall post monthly on that department's web site the aggregate amount of credits claimed and processed for the fiscal year.

[Q.] R. To receive a film production tax credit, a film production company shall apply to the taxation and revenue department on forms and in the manner the department may prescribe. The application shall include a certification of the amount of direct production expenditures or postproduction expenditures made in New Mexico with respect to the film production for which the film production company is seeking the film production tax credit; provided that for the film production tax credit, the application shall be submitted within one year of the date of the last direct production expenditure in New Mexico or the last postproduction expenditure in New Mexico incurred within the film production company's taxable year. If the amount of the requested tax

credit exceeds five million dollars (\$5,000,000), the application shall also include the results of an audit, conducted by a certified public accountant licensed to practice in New Mexico, verifying that the expenditures have been made in compliance with the requirements of this section. If the requirements of this section have been complied with, subject to the provisions of Subsection [Ξ] \underline{F} of this section, the taxation and revenue department shall approve the film production tax credit and issue a document granting the tax credit.

[R.] S. The film production company may apply all or a portion of the film production tax credit granted against personal income tax liability or corporate income tax liability. If the amount of the film production tax credit claimed exceeds the film production company's tax liability for the taxable year in which the credit is being claimed, the excess shall be refunded.

[S.] T. As applied to direct production expenditures for the services of performing artists, the film production tax credit authorized by this section shall not exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in total payments for services rendered [by all performing artists] in a production for which the film production tax credit is claimed. This limitation shall not apply to the services of background artists and resident performing artists who are not cast in

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SECTION 2. Section 7-2F-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 127, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-2F-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Film Production Tax Credit Act:

- A. "affiliated person" means a person who directly or indirectly owns or controls, is owned or controlled by or is under common ownership or control with another person through ownership of voting securities or other ownership interests representing a majority of the total voting power of the entity;
- B. "commercial audiovisual product" means a film or a videogame intended for commercial exploitation;
 - C. "direct production expenditure":
- (1) except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this subsection, means a transaction that is subject to taxation in New Mexico, including:
- (a) payment of wages, fringe benefits or fees for talent, management or labor to a person who is a New Mexico resident;
- (b) payment for [services by] wages and per diem for a performing artist who is not a New Mexico resident and who is directly employed by the film production company; provided that the film production company deducts and remits, or causes to be deducted and remitted, income tax from .199515.5

the first day of services rendered in New Mexico at the maximum rate pursuant to the Withholding Tax Act;

business for the [services] wages and per diem of a performing artist if: 1) the personal services business pays gross receipts tax in New Mexico on the portion of those payments qualifying for the tax credit; and 2) the film production company deducts and remits, or causes to be deducted and remitted, income tax at the maximum rate in New Mexico pursuant to Subsection H of Section 7-3A-3 NMSA 1978 on the portion of those payments qualifying for the tax credit paid to a personal services business where the performing artist is a full or part owner of that business or subcontracts with a personal services business where the performing artist is a full or part owner of that business; and

(d) any of the following provided by a vendor: 1) the story and scenario to be used for a film; 2) set construction and operations, wardrobe, accessories and related services; 3) photography, sound synchronization, lighting and related services; 4) editing and related services; 5) rental of facilities and equipment; 6) leasing of vehicles, not including the chartering of aircraft for out-of-state transportation; however, New Mexico-based chartered aircraft for in-state transportation directly attributable to the production shall be considered a direct production expenditure;

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provided that only the first one hundred dollars (\$100) of the daily expense of leasing a vehicle for passenger transportation on roadways in the state may be claimed as a direct production expenditure; 7) food or lodging; provided that only the first one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) of lodging per individual per day is eligible to be claimed as a direct production expenditure; 8) commercial airfare if purchased through a New Mexico-based travel agency or travel company for travel to and from New Mexico or within New Mexico that is directly attributable to the production; 9) insurance coverage and bonding if purchased through a New Mexico-based insurance agent, broker or bonding agent; 10) services for an external audit upon submission of an application for a film production tax credit by an accounting firm that submits the application pursuant to Section 7-2F-1 NMSA 1978; and [10) 11) other direct costs of producing a film in accordance with generally accepted entertainment industry practice; and

- (2) does not include an expenditure for:
- (a) a gift with a value greater than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00);
- (b) artwork or jewelry, except that a work of art or a piece of jewelry may be a direct production expenditure if: 1) it is used in the film production; and 2) the expenditure is less than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500);

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15	applicable in
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L 7	in-kind contri
18	development ef
19	the following:
20	each approved
21	tax credit att
22	nonresidents e
23	which equates

(c) entertainment, amusement or

(d) subcontracted goods or services rovided by a vendor when subcontractors are not subject to tate taxation, such as equipment and locations provided by the nilitary, government and religious organizations; [or

(e) a service provided by a person who s not a New Mexico resident and employed in an industry crew position, excluding a performing artist, where it is the standard entertainment industry practice for the film production company to employ a person for that industry crew position, except when the person who is not a New Mexico esident is hired or subcontracted by a vendor; and when the ilm production company, as determined by the division and when applicable in consultation with industry, provides: 1) easonable efforts to hire resident crew; and 2) financial or n-kind contributions toward education or work force levelopment efforts in New Mexico, including at least one of the following: a pre-approved workshop; on-set shadowing per each approved position; or ten percent of the portion of the ax credit attributable to the payment for services provided by conresidents employed by the vendor in the approved positions, which equates to two-and-one-half percent of the respective total direct production expenditure and which is allocated to New Mexico public education institutions that administer at

1	reast one industry-recognized frim or muttimedia program,
2	D. "division" means the New Mexico film division of
3	the economic development department;
4	E. "federal new markets tax credit program" means
5	the tax credit program codified as Section 45D of the United
6	States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;
7	F. "film" means a single medium or multimedia
8	program, excluding advertising messages other than national or
9	regional advertising messages intended for exhibition, that:
10	(1) is fixed on film, a digital medium,
11	videotape, computer disc, laser disc or other similar delivery
12	medium;
13	(2) can be viewed or reproduced;
L 4	(3) is not intended to and does not violate a
15	provision of Chapter 30, Article 37 NMSA 1978; and
16	(4) is intended for reasonable commercial
17	exploitation for the delivery medium used;
18	G. "film production company" means a person that
19	produces one or more films or any part of a film;
20	H. "fiscal year" means the state fiscal year
21	beginning on July 1;
22	I. "industry crew" means a person in a position
23	that is off-camera and who provides industry-standard technical
24	services during the physical production of a film; but
25	"industry crew" does not include a writer, director or
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producer;

[1.] J. "New Mexico resident" means an individual who is domiciled in this state during any part of the taxable year or an individual who is physically present in this state for one hundred eighty-five days or more during the taxable year; but any individual, other than someone who was physically present in the state for one hundred eighty-five days or more during the taxable year and who, on or before the last day of the taxable year, changed the individual's place of abode to a place without this state with the bona fide intention of continuing actually to abide permanently without this state is not a resident for the purposes of the Film Production Tax Credit Act for periods after that change of abode;

[J.] K. "personal services business" means a business organization, with or without physical presence, that receives payments pursuant to the Film Production Tax Credit

Act for the services of a performing artist;

[K.] L. "physical presence" means a physical address in New Mexico from which a vendor conducts business, stores inventory or otherwise creates, assembles or offers for sale the product purchased or leased by a film production company;

 $[\frac{L_{\star}}{M_{\star}}]$ "postproduction expenditure" means an expenditure for editing, Foley recording, automatic dialogue replacement, sound editing, special effects, including

computer-generated imagery or other effects, scoring and music
editing, beginning and end credits, negative cutting,
soundtrack production, dubbing, subtitling or addition of sound
or visual effects; but not including an expenditure for
advertising, marketing, distribution or expense payments:

[M.] N. "qualified production facility" means a building or complex of buildings and their improvements and [associated] back-lot facilities, owned and controlled by the same entity, in which films are or are intended to be regularly produced and that contain at least one:

(1) sound stage with contiguous, clear-span floor space of at least seven thousand square feet and a ceiling height of no less than twenty-one feet; or

interior and more than one exterior built or re-purposed for film production use on a continual basis and is located on at least fifty acres of contiguous space designated for film production use; and

[N.] O. "vendor" means a person [selling] who sells or leases goods or services that are related to a standard industry category of inventory, who has a physical presence in New Mexico and is subject to gross receipts tax pursuant to the Gross Receipts and Compensating Tax Act and income tax pursuant to the Income Tax Act or corporate income tax pursuant to the Corporate Income and Franchise Tax Act. [but excludes services

1	provided by nonresidents hired or subcontracted if the tasks
2	and responsibilities are associated with:
3	(1) the standard industry job position of:
4	(a) a director;
5	(b) a writer;
6	(c) a producer;
7	(d) an associate producer;
8	(e) a co-producer;
9	(f) an executive producer;
10	(g) a production supervisor;
11	(h) a director of photography;
12	(i) a motion picture driver whose sole
13	responsibility is driving;
14	(j) a production or personal assistant;
15	(k) a designer;
16	(1) a still photographer; or
17	(m) a carpenter and utility technician
18	at an entry level; and
19	(2) nonstandard industry job positions and
20	personal support services] "Vendor" does not include a personal
21	services business."
22	SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATEThe effective date of the
23	provisions of this act is January 1, 2016.
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