

By: Metcalf

H.B. No. 2729

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the moving image industry incentive program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 485.022(e), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) The office is not required to act on any grant application and may deny an application because of inappropriate content [~~or content that portrays Texas or Texans in a negative fashion~~], as determined by the office, in a moving image project. In determining whether to act on or deny a grant application, the office shall consider general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the citizens of Texas.

SECTION 2. Section 485.023, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 485.023. QUALIFICATION. To qualify for a grant under this subchapter:

(1) a production company must have spent a minimum of:

(A) \$250,000 in in-state spending for a film or television program; or

(B) \$100,000 in in-state spending for a commercial or series of commercials, an educational or instructional video or series of educational or instructional videos, or a digital interactive media production;

1 (2) at least 50 [~~70~~] percent of the production crew,
2 actors, and extras for a moving image project must be Texas
3 residents unless the office determines and certifies in writing
4 that a sufficient number of qualified crew, actors, and extras are
5 not available to the company at the time principal photography
6 begins;

7 (3) at least 50 [~~60~~] percent of the moving image
8 project must be filmed in Texas; and

9 (4) a production company must submit to the office an
10 expended budget, in a format prescribed by the office, that
11 reflects all in-state spending and includes all receipts, invoices,
12 pay orders, and other documentation considered necessary by the
13 office to accurately determine the amount of a production company's
14 in-state spending that has occurred.

15 SECTION 3. Section [485.025](#), Government Code, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 Sec. 485.025. ADDITIONAL GRANT FOR UNDERUTILIZED AND
18 ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS. In addition to the grant calculated
19 under Section [485.024](#), a production company that spends at least 25
20 percent of a moving image project's filming days in an
21 underutilized and economically distressed area is eligible for an
22 additional grant in an amount equal to 5 [~~2.5~~] percent of the total
23 amount of the production company's in-state spending for the moving
24 image project.

25 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
26 a moving image project for which an application is submitted under
27 Section [485.022](#)(b)(2), Government Code, on or after the effective

1 date of this Act. A moving image project for which an application is
2 submitted before the effective date of this Act is governed by the
3 law in effect on the date the application was submitted, and the
4 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

5 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.