

By: Bumgarner, Howard

H.B. No. 5508

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment of the Texas Film Academy to
3 facilitate workforce development in the state's film, television,
4 and digital media industries.

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

6 SECTION 1. (a) In this section, "academy" means the Texas
7 Film Academy.

8 (b) The legislature finds that:

9 (1) the establishment of the academy is essential to
10 the support and growth of film, television, and digital media
11 industries in this state; and

12 (2) success of the academy will aid this state in
13 becoming a destination for film, television, and digital media
14 productions.

15 SECTION 2. Subtitle F, Title 4, Government Code, is amended
16 by adding Chapter 485B to read as follows:

17 CHAPTER 485B. TEXAS FILM ACADEMY

18 SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

19 Sec. 485B.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

20 (1) "Academy" means the Texas Film Academy established
21 under this chapter.

22 (2) "Commission" means the Texas Workforce
23 Commission.

24 (3) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher

1 Education Coordinating Board.

2 (4) "Institution of higher education," "public junior
3 college," and "public technical institute" have the meanings
4 assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

5 Sec. 485B.002. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to
6 facilitate the development and delivery of higher education and
7 workforce training in the film, television, and digital media
8 industries in this state necessary to address the growing demand
9 for skilled crew members in those industries, create jobs, foster
10 economic growth, and strengthen the state's appeal as a destination
11 for film, television, and digital media productions.

12 Sec. 485B.003. ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION. (a) The Texas
13 Film Academy is established to facilitate the creation and offering
14 of specialized higher education and workforce training programs in
15 film production, post-production, and other related areas of the
16 film, television, and digital media industries in this state.

17 (b) In consultation with the coordinating board, the
18 academy shall operate in partnership with institutions of higher
19 education and industry leaders in this state's film, television,
20 and digital media industries to facilitate the offering of higher
21 education programs and workforce training in the areas described by
22 Subsection (a).

23 (c) The academy is administratively attached to the
24 commission. The commission shall provide administrative support
25 services, staffing, and facilities necessary to assist the academy
26 in performing the academy's duties under this chapter.

27 Sec. 485B.004. GOVERNANCE; BOARD MEMBERSHIP. (a) The

1 academy is governed by a board composed of nine directors appointed
2 by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. A member
3 of the board serves at the pleasure of the governor.

4 (b) The board's membership must include:

5 (1) representatives of institutions of higher
6 education;

7 (2) a representative of the coordinating board; and

8 (3) industry leaders in the film, television, or
9 digital media industry.

10 SUBCHAPTER B. POWERS AND DUTIES

11 Sec. 485B.051. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT. (a) The academy, in
12 consultation with industry leaders and representatives of the
13 coordinating board, public junior colleges, public technical
14 institutes, and general academic teaching institutions, shall
15 develop customized curriculum requirements for associate degree
16 and certificate programs and continuing education courses to
17 prepare students for jobs in film, television, and digital media
18 industries that, subject to coordinating board approval under
19 Section 61.0512, Education Code, if applicable, may be offered by
20 public junior colleges or public technical institutes.

21 (b) In developing curriculum requirements under Subsection
22 (a), the academy and other persons described by that subsection
23 shall focus on developing curriculum for programs leading to
24 high-wage jobs in the areas of:

25 (1) on-set production training;

26 (2) post-production techniques;

27 (3) grip and electric training;

- 1 (4) costume and set design;
- 2 (5) sound engineering;
- 3 (6) visual effects and animation; and
- 4 (7) project management in film and television
- 5 production.

6 Sec. 485B.052. PARTNERSHIPS WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
7 EDUCATION. The academy shall seek to enter into partnerships with
8 institutions of higher education located in regions throughout this
9 state to offer, both in person and by distance education, degree,
10 certificate, and continuing education programs and courses
11 developed by the academy. The academy shall also encourage
12 institutions of higher education to integrate courses developed by
13 the academy into any existing degree, certificate, and continuing
14 education programs offered by the institutions that are relevant to
15 the purpose of this chapter.

16 Sec. 485B.053. PARTNERSHIPS WITH INDUSTRY. The academy
17 shall seek to enter into partnerships with film studios, production
18 companies, and industry associations in this state to:

19 (1) offer internships and apprenticeships that
20 provide higher education students in this state with hands-on
21 experience in the film, television, or digital media industry; and

22 (2) ensure that the customized higher education and
23 training programs developed by the academy are aligned with
24 industry workforce needs.

25 Sec. 485B.054. ADDITIONAL DUTIES. The academy shall:

26 (1) host job fairs, networking events, and industry
27 workshops to connect graduates with potential employers; and

1 (2) provide guidance to entities that partner with the
2 academy to provide internships and apprenticeships, or that provide
3 equipment donations to the academy, on the existence of any state or
4 local tax preferences that may be available to the entities.

5 Sec. 485B.055. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The academy
6 may solicit gifts, grants, and donations from any public or private
7 source for the purposes of this chapter.

8 Sec. 485B.056. ANNUAL REPORT. (a) Not later than December 1
9 of each year, the academy shall prepare and submit to the governor
10 and each standing committee of the legislature with primary
11 jurisdiction over higher education or workforce development a
12 written report that includes:

13 (1) a summary of the academy's progress and
14 effectiveness that includes data on enrollment, degree or
15 certificate program completion, and job placement for individuals
16 participating in higher education programs or training developed by
17 or offered in partnership with the academy; and

18 (2) recommendations for improvements to or expansion
19 of the academy, including any need for additional funding.

20 (b) The commission shall include in its annual report
21 submitted under Subsection (a) not later than December 1, 2030, a
22 summary of the results and impact of the academy, including a
23 recommendation on whether the academy should be continued,
24 expanded, or terminated.

25 Sec. 485B.057. EXPIRATION. The academy terminates and this
26 chapter expires September 1, 2032.

27 SECTION 3. A public institution of higher education that

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1 partners with the Texas Film Academy to offer a degree,
2 certificate, or continuing education program under Chapter 485B,
3 Government Code, as added by this Act, shall begin enrolling
4 students in the program not later than the 2027 spring semester.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.