

# NJ A 5580, Enacted - Interim

New Jersey

SUMMARY: Extends the period for corporation business tax and gross income tax credits relating to certain expenses incurred for production of films and digital media content. SAME AS: NJ S 3842

Legislative History and Analysis Changes in Bill text reflected as:

~~Text Deleted~~

*Text Added*

~~Text Vetoed~~

Current Legislative Status 06/10/2019 FILED.

06/13/2019 INTRODUCED.

06/13/2019 To ASSEMBLY Committee on COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

11/14/2019 Transferred to ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS. 11/14/2019 From ASSEMBLY Committee on APPROPRIATIONS as amended. 11/25/2019 Amended on ASSEMBLY floor.

01/13/2020 Passed ASSEMBLY. \*\*\*\*\*To SENATE. 01/13/2020 Received in the SENATE without Reference. 01/13/2020 Amended on SENATE floor.

01/13/2020 Substituted for S3842.

01/13/2020 Passed SENATE. \*\*\*\*\*To ASSEMBLY for concurrence.

01/13/2020 In ASSEMBLY. Read second time on concurrence in SENATE additional amendments. 01/13/2020 ASSEMBLY concurred in SENATE amendments.

01/21/2020 Signed by GOVERNOR.

01/21/2020 Chapter No. 2019-506

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session: New Jersey 218th Legislature - Second Regular Session cite: 2018 NJ A 5580

Enacted - Interim January 21, 2020 Johnson

P.L.2019, CHAPTER 506, approved January 21, 2020

Assembly, No. 5580 STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

An Act ~~extending the period of time for which~~ *related to the provisions of* certain ~~films~~ *film* and digital media content tax credits ~~may be applied~~, and amending P.L.2018, c.56.

Be It Enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. Section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b) is amended to read as follows:

1. a. (1) A taxpayer, upon approval of an application to the authority and the director, shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) in an amount equal to 30 percent of the qualified film production expenses of the taxpayer during a privilege period commencing on or after July 1, 2018 but before July 1, ~~2023~~ *2028*, provided that:

- (a) at least 60 percent of the total film production expenses, exclusive of post-production costs, of the taxpayer are incurred for services performed, and goods purchased through vendors authorized to do business, in New Jersey, or the qualified film production expenses of the taxpayer during the privilege period exceed \$1,000,000 per production;
- (b) principal photography of the film commences within the earlier of 180 days from the date of the original application for the tax credit, or 150 days from the date of approval of the application for the tax credit;
- (c) the film includes, when determined to be appropriate by the commission, at no cost to the State, marketing materials promoting this State as a film and entertainment production destination, which materials shall include placement of a "Filmed in New Jersey" or "Produced in New Jersey" statement, or an approved logo approved by the ~~Commission~~ *commission*, in the end credits of the film;
- (d) the taxpayer submits a tax credit verification report prepared by an independent certified public accountant licensed in this State in accordance with subsection f. of this section; and
- (e) the taxpayer complies with the withholding requirements provided for payments to loan out companies and independent contractors in accordance with subsection g. of this section.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of ~~this~~ subsection a. *of this section* to the contrary, the tax credit allowed pursuant to this subsection against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) shall be in an amount equal to 35 percent of the qualified film production expenses of the taxpayer during a privilege period that are incurred for services performed and tangible personal property purchased through vendors whose primary place of business is located in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer or Salem County.

b. (1) A taxpayer, upon approval of an application to the authority and the director, shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) in an amount equal to 20 percent of the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer during a privilege period commencing on or after July 1, 2018 but before July 1, ~~2023~~ *2028*, provided that:

- (a) at least \$2,000,000 of the total digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer are incurred for services performed, and goods purchased through vendors authorized to do business, in New Jersey;

- (b) at least 50 percent of the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer are for wages and salaries paid to full-time or full-time equivalent employees in New Jersey;
  - (c) the taxpayer submits a tax credit verification report prepared by an independent certified public accountant licensed in this State in accordance with subsection f. of this section; and
  - (d) the taxpayer complies with the withholding requirements provided for payments to loan out companies and independent contractors in accordance with subsection g. of this section.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of ~~this~~ subsection b. **of this section** to the contrary, the tax credit allowed pursuant to this subsection against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) shall be in an amount equal to 25 percent of the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer during a privilege period that are incurred for services performed and tangible personal property purchased through vendors whose primary place of business is located in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, or Salem County.
- c. No tax credit shall be allowed pursuant to this section for any costs or expenses included in the calculation of any other tax credit or exemption granted pursuant to a claim made on a tax return filed with the director, or included in the calculation of an award of business assistance or incentive, for a period of time that coincides with the privilege period for which a tax credit authorized pursuant to this section is allowed. The order of priority in which the tax credit allowed pursuant to this section and any other tax credits allowed by law may be taken shall be as prescribed by the director. The amount of the tax credit applied under this section against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5), for a privilege period, when taken together with any other payments, credits, deductions, and adjustments allowed by law shall not reduce the tax liability of the taxpayer to an amount less than the statutory minimum provided in subsection (e) of section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5). The amount of the tax credit otherwise allowable under this section which cannot be applied for the privilege period due to the limitations of this subsection or under other provisions of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-1 et seq.) may be carried forward, if necessary, to the seven privilege periods following the privilege period for which the tax credit was allowed.
- d. A taxpayer, with an application for a tax credit provided for in subsection a. or subsection b. of this section, may apply to the authority and the director for a tax credit transfer certificate in lieu of the taxpayer being allowed any amount of the tax credit against the tax liability of the taxpayer. The tax credit transfer certificate, upon receipt thereof by the taxpayer from the authority and the director, may be sold or assigned, in full or in part, to any other taxpayer that may have a tax liability under the "Corporation Business Tax Act (1945)," P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-1 et seq.), or the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., in exchange for private financial assistance to be provided by the purchaser or assignee to the taxpayer that has applied for and been granted the tax credit. The tax credit transfer certificate provided to the taxpayer shall include a statement waiving the taxpayer's right to claim that amount of the tax credit against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) that the taxpayer has elected to sell or assign. The sale or assignment of any amount of a tax credit transfer certificate allowed under this section shall not be exchanged for consideration received by the taxpayer of less than 75 percent of the transferred tax credit amount. Any amount of a tax credit transfer certificate used by a purchaser or assignee against a tax liability under P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-1 et seq.) shall be subject to the same limitations and conditions that apply to the use of a tax credit pursuant to subsection c. of this section. Any amount of a tax credit transfer certificate obtained by a purchaser or assignee under subsection a. or subsection b. of this section may be applied against the purchaser's or assignee's tax liability under N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. and shall be subject to the same limitations and conditions

that apply to the use of a credit pursuant to subsections c. and d. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b).

- e. (1) ~~(a)~~ The value of tax credits, including tax credits allowed through the granting of tax credit transfer certificates, approved by the director and the authority pursuant to subsection a. of this section and pursuant to subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b) shall not exceed a cumulative total of ~~\$75,000,000~~ ~~\$100,000,000~~ in fiscal year 2019 and in each fiscal year thereafter prior to fiscal year ~~2024~~ ~~2029~~ to apply against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) and the tax imposed pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. If the cumulative total amount of tax credits, and tax credit transfer certificates, allowed to taxpayers for privilege periods or taxable years commencing during a single fiscal year under subsection a. of this section and subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b) exceeds the amount of tax credits available in that fiscal year, then taxpayers who have first applied for and have not been allowed a tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate amount for that reason shall be allowed, in the order in which they have submitted an application, the amount of tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate on the first day of the next succeeding fiscal year in which tax credits and tax credit transfer certificates under subsection a. of this section and subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b) are not in excess of the amount of credits available.

*Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (1) ~~(a)~~ of this subsection to the contrary, for any fiscal year in which the amount of tax credits approved pursuant to this paragraph is less than the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved in that fiscal year, the authority shall certify the amount of the remaining tax credits available for approval in that fiscal year, and shall increase the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved in the subsequent fiscal year by the certified amount remaining from the prior fiscal year. The authority shall also certify, for each fiscal year, the amount of tax credits that were previously approved, but that the taxpayer is not able to redeem or transfer to another taxpayer under this section, and shall increase the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved in the subsequent fiscal year by the amount of tax credits previously approved, but not subject to redemption or transfer. The combined increase to the cumulative total permitted to be approved in a subsequent fiscal year pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed \$50,000,000.*

~~(b) Any taxpayer with an application for a tax credit approved by the authority and the director pursuant to subsection a. or subsection b. of this section that leases a New Jersey production facility with a total square footage of at least 50,000 square feet, which includes a sound stage and production support space such as production offices or a backlot, for a period of five or more successive years and spends an annual average of \$50,000,000 of qualified film production expenses during the duration of that lease shall not be subject to the annual limitation on the cumulative total of tax credits provided for in paragraph (1) (a) of this subsection; provided however, the cumulative total of tax credits granted in the nine year period from fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2028 pursuant to subsection a. of this section and subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b) shall not exceed \$900,000,000 plus the amount of remaining tax credits from Fiscal Year 2019 as certified pursuant to this subsection.~~

~~The qualified film production expenses of any taxpayer qualifying for a credit under paragraph (1) (b) of this subsection shall include any qualified film production expenses of that taxpayer's affiliates.~~

~~Any taxpayer qualifying for a credit under paragraph (1) (b) of this subsection shall not be eligible to apply for a tax credit transfer certificate under subsection d. of this~~

~~section.~~

~~The order of priority in which the tax credit allowed under paragraph (1) (b) of this subsection and any other tax credits allowed by law may be taken shall be as prescribed by the director. The amount of tax credits allowed under paragraph (1) (b) of this subsection that are applied against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5), for any privilege period shall not exceed 50 percent of the tax liability otherwise due, and when taken together with any other payments, credits, deductions, and adjustments allowed by law shall not reduce the tax liability of the taxpayer to an amount less than the statutory minimum provided in subsection (e) of section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5). The amount of the tax credits otherwise allowable under paragraph (1) (b) of this subsection which cannot be applied for the privilege period due to the limitations of this subsection or under other provisions of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-1 et seq.) may be carried forward, if necessary, to the seven privilege periods following the privilege period for which the tax credit was allowed.~~

- (2) The value of tax credits, including tax credits allowed through the granting of tax credit transfer certificates, approved by the authority and the director pursuant to subsection b. of this section and pursuant to subsection b. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b) shall not exceed a cumulative total of \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2019 and in each fiscal year thereafter prior to fiscal year ~~2024~~ 2029 to apply against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) and the tax imposed pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. If the total amount of tax credits and tax credit transfer certificates allowed to taxpayers for privilege periods or taxable years commencing during a single fiscal year under subsection b. of this section and subsection b. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12.b) exceeds the amount of tax credits available in that year, then taxpayers who have first applied for and have not been allowed a tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate amount for that reason shall be allowed, in the order in which they have submitted an application, the amount of tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate on the first day of the next succeeding fiscal year in which tax credits and tax credit transfer certificates under subsection b. of this section and subsection b. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12.b) are not in excess of the amount of credits available.
- f. A taxpayer shall submit to the authority and the director a report prepared by an independent certified public accountant licensed in this State to verify the taxpayer's tax credit claim following the completion of the production. The report shall be prepared by the independent certified public accountant pursuant to agreed upon procedures prescribed by the authority and the director~~;~~ , and shall include such information and documentation as shall be determined to be necessary by the authority and the director to substantiate the qualified film production expenses or the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer. Upon receipt of the report, the authority and the director shall review the findings of the independent certified public accountant's report, and shall make a determination as to the qualified film production expenses or the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer. The determination shall be provided in writing to the taxpayer, and a copy of the written determination shall be included in the filing of a return that includes a claim for a tax credit allowed pursuant to this section.
- g. A taxpayer shall withhold from each payment to a loan out company or to an independent contractor an amount equal to 6.37 percent of the payment otherwise due. The amounts withheld shall be deemed to be withholding of liability pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., and the taxpayer shall be deemed to have the rights, duties, and responsibilities of an employer pursuant to chapter 7 of Title 54A of the New Jersey Statutes. The director shall allocate the amounts withheld for a taxable year to the accounts of the individuals who are employees of a loan out company in proportion to the employee's payment by the loan out company in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State during the

taxable year. A loan out company that reports its payments to employees in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State during a taxable year shall be relieved of its duties and responsibilities as an employer pursuant to chapter 7 of Title 54A of the New Jersey Statutes for the taxable year for any payments relating to the payments on which the taxpayer withheld.

h. As used in this section:

"Authority" means the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

"Business assistance or incentive" means "business assistance or incentive" as that term is defined pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2007, c.101 (C.54:50-39).

"Commission" means the Motion Picture and Television Development Commission.

"Digital media content" means any data or information that is produced in digital form, including data or information created in analog form but reformatted in digital form, text, graphics, photographs, animation, sound, and video content. "Digital media content" ~~does~~ shall not mean content offerings generated by the end user (including postings on electronic bulletin boards and chat rooms); content offerings comprised primarily of local news, events, weather, or local market reports; public service content; electronic commerce platforms (such as retail and wholesale websites); websites or content offerings that contain obscene material as defined pursuant to N.J.S.2C:34-2 and N.J.S.2C:34-3; websites or content that are produced or maintained primarily for private, industrial, corporate, or institutional purposes; or digital media content acquired or licensed by the taxpayer for distribution or incorporation into the taxpayer's digital media content.

"Film" means a feature film, a television series, or a television show of 22 minutes or more in length, intended for a national audience, or a television series or a television show of 22 minutes or more in length intended for a national or regional audience, including, but not limited to, a game show, award show, or other gala event filmed and produced at a nonprofit arts and cultural venue receiving State funding. "Film" shall not include a production featuring news, current events, weather, and market reports or public programming, talk show, or sports event, a production that solicits funds, a production containing obscene material as defined under N.J.S.2C:34-2 and N.J.S.2C:34-3, or a production primarily for private, industrial, corporate, or institutional purposes, or a reality show, except if the production company of the reality show owns, leases, or otherwise occupies a production facility of no less than 20,000 square feet of real property for a minimum term of ~~twenty-four (24)~~ 24 months, and invests no less than \$3,000,000 in such a facility within a designated enterprise zone established pursuant to the "New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zones Act," P.L.1983, c.303 (C.52:27H-60 et al.), or a UEZ-impacted business district established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2001, c.347 (C.52:27H-66.2). "Film" shall not include an award show or other gala event that is not filmed and produced at a nonprofit arts and cultural venue receiving State funding.

"Full-time or full-time equivalent employee" means an individual employed by the taxpayer for consideration for at least 35 hours a week, or who renders any other standard of service generally accepted by custom or practice as full-time or full-time equivalent employment, whose wages are subject to withholding as provided in the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., or who is a partner of a taxpayer, who works for the partnership for at least 35 hours a week, or who renders any other standard of service generally accepted by custom or practice as full-time or full-time equivalent employment, and whose distributive share of income, gain, loss, or deduction, or whose guaranteed payments, or any combination thereof, is subject to the payment of estimated taxes, as provided in the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. "Full-time or full-time equivalent employee" shall not include an individual who works as an independent contractor or on a consulting basis for the taxpayer.

"Highly compensated individual" means an individual who directly or indirectly receives compensation in excess of \$500,000 for the performance of services used directly in a production. An individual receives compensation indirectly when the taxpayer pays a loan out company that, in turn, pays the individual for the performance of services.

"Independent contractor" means an individual treated as an independent contractor for federal and State tax purposes who is contracted with by the taxpayer for the performance of services used directly in a production.

"Loan out company" means a personal service corporation or other entity that is contracted with by the taxpayer to provide specified individual personnel, such as artists, crew, actors, producers, or directors for the performance of services used directly in a production. "Loan out company" ~~does~~ shall not include entities contracted with by the taxpayer to provide goods or ancillary contractor services such as catering, construction, trailers, equipment, or transportation.

"Partnership" means an entity classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

"Post-production costs" means the costs of the phase of production of a film that follows principal photography, in which raw footage is cut and assembled into a finished film with sound synchronization and visual effects.

"Pre-production costs" means the costs of the phase of production of a film that precedes principal photography, in which a detailed schedule and budget for the production is prepared, the script and location is finalized, and contracts with vendors are negotiated.

"Qualified digital media content production expenses" means an expense incurred in New Jersey for the production of digital media content. "Qualified digital media content production expenses" shall include but ~~shall~~ not be limited to: wages and salaries of individuals employed in the production of digital media content on which the tax imposed by the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. has been paid or is due; and the costs of computer software and hardware, data processing, visualization technologies, sound synchronization, editing, and the rental of facilities and equipment. Payment made to a loan out company or to an independent contractor shall not be ~~deemed~~ a "qualified digital media content production expense" unless the payment is made in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State and the taxpayer has made the withholding required ~~by~~ pursuant to subsection g. of this section. "Qualified digital media content production expenses" shall not include expenses incurred in marketing, promotion, or advertising digital media or other costs not directly related to the production of digital media content. Costs related to the acquisition or licensing of digital media content by the taxpayer for distribution or incorporation into the taxpayer's digital media content shall not be ~~deemed~~ "qualified digital media content production expenses."

"Qualified film production expenses" means an expense incurred in New Jersey for the production of a film including pre-production costs and post-production costs incurred in New Jersey. "Qualified film production expenses" shall include but ~~shall~~ not be limited to: wages and salaries of individuals employed in the production of a film on which the tax imposed by the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. has been paid or is due; and the costs for tangible personal property used, and services performed, directly and exclusively in the production of a film, such as expenditures for film production facilities, props, makeup, wardrobe, film processing, camera, sound recording, set construction, lighting, shooting, editing, and meals. Payment made to a loan out company or to an independent contractor shall not be ~~deemed~~ a "qualified film production expense" unless the payment is made in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State and the taxpayer has made the withholding required ~~by~~ pursuant to subsection g. of this section. "Qualified film production expenses" shall not include: expenses

incurred in marketing or advertising a film; and payment in excess of \$500,000 to a highly compensated individual for costs for a story, script, or scenario used in the production of a film and wages or salaries or other compensation for writers, directors, including music directors, producers, and performers, other than background actors with no scripted lines.

"Total digital media content production expenses" means costs for services performed and property used or consumed in the production of digital media content.

"Total film production expenses" means costs for services performed and tangible personal property used or consumed in the production of a film.

- i. A business that is not a "taxpayer" as defined and used in the "Corporation Business Tax Act (1945)" P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-1 et seq.) and therefore is not directly allowed a credit under this section, but is a business entity that is classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes and is ultimately owned by a business entity that is a "corporation" as defined in subsection (c) of section 4 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-4), or a limited liability company formed under the "Revised Uniform Limited Liability Company Act," P.L.2012, c.50 (C.42:2C-1 et seq.), or qualified to do business in this State as a foreign limited liability company, with one member, and is wholly owned by the business entity that is a "corporation" as defined in subsection (c) of section 4 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-4), but otherwise meets all other requirements of this section, shall be considered an eligible applicant and "taxpayer" as that term is used in this section.

(cf: P.L.2018, c.56, s.1)

2. Section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b) is amended to read as follows:

2. a. (1) A taxpayer, upon approval of an application to the authority and the director, shall be allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due for the taxable year under the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., in an amount equal to 30 percent of the qualified film production expenses of the taxpayer during a taxable year commencing on or after July 1, 2018 but before July 1, ~~2023~~ **2028**, provided that:
  - (a) at least 60 percent of the total film production expenses, exclusive of post-production costs, of the taxpayer are incurred for services performed, and goods purchased through vendors authorized to do business, in New Jersey, or the qualified film production expenses of the taxpayer during the taxable year exceed \$1,000,000 per production;
  - (b) principal photography of the film commences within the earlier of 180 days from the date of the original application for the tax credit, or 150 days from the date of approval of the application for the tax credit;
  - (c) the film includes, when determined to be appropriate by the commission, at no cost to the State, marketing materials promoting this State as a film and entertainment production destination, which materials shall include placement of a "Filmed in New Jersey" or "Produced in New Jersey" statement, or an appropriate logo approved by the ~~Commission~~ **commission**, in the end credits of the film;
  - (d) the taxpayer submits a tax credit verification report prepared by an independent certified public accountant licensed in this State in accordance with subsection g. of this section; and
  - (e) the taxpayer complies with the withholding requirements provided for payments to loan out companies and independent contractors in accordance with subsection h. of this section.

- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of ~~this~~ subsection a. **of this section** to the contrary, the tax credit allowed pursuant to this subsection against the tax otherwise due for the taxable year under the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., shall be in an amount equal to 35 percent of the qualified film production expenses of the taxpayer during a taxable year that are incurred for services performed and tangible personal property purchased through vendors whose primary place of business is located in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, or Salem County.
- b.(1) A taxpayer, upon approval of an application to the authority and the director, shall be allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due for the taxable year under the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., in an amount equal to 20 percent of the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer during a taxable year commencing on or after July 1, 2018 but before July 1, ~~2023~~ **2028**, provided that:
- (a) at least \$2,000,000 of the total digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer are incurred for services performed, and goods purchased through vendors authorized to do business, in New Jersey;
  - (b) at least 50 percent of the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer are for wages and salaries paid to full-time or full-time equivalent employees in New Jersey;
  - (c) the taxpayer submits a tax credit verification report prepared by an independent certified public accountant licensed in this State in accordance with subsection g. of this section; and
  - (d) the taxpayer complies with the withholding requirements provided for payments to loan out companies and independent contractors in accordance with subsection h. of this section.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of ~~this~~ subsection b. **of this section** to the contrary, the tax credit allowed pursuant to this subsection against the tax otherwise due for the taxable year under the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., shall be in an amount equal to 25 percent for the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer during a taxable year that are incurred for services performed and tangible personal property purchased through vendors whose primary place of business is located in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, or Salem County.
- c. No tax credit shall be allowed pursuant to this section for any costs or expenses included in the calculation of any other tax credit or exemption granted pursuant to a claim made on a tax return filed with the director, or included in the calculation of an award of business assistance or incentive, for a period of time that coincides with the taxable year for which a tax credit authorized pursuant to this section is allowed. The order of priority in which the tax credit allowed pursuant to this section and any other tax credits allowed by law may be taken shall be as prescribed by the director. The amount of the tax credit applied under this section against the tax otherwise due under the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., for a taxable year, when taken together with any other payments, credits, deductions, and adjustments allowed by law shall not reduce the tax liability of the taxpayer to an amount less than zero. The amount of the tax credit otherwise allowable under this section which cannot be applied for the taxable year due to the limitations of this subsection or under other provisions of N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., may be carried forward, if necessary, to the seven taxable years following the taxable year for which the tax credit was allowed.
- d.(1) A business entity that is classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes shall not

be allowed a tax credit pursuant to this section directly, but the amount of tax credit of a taxpayer in respect of a distributive share of entity income, shall be determined by allocating to the taxpayer that proportion of the tax credit acquired by the entity that is equal to the taxpayer's share, whether or not distributed, of the total distributive income or gain of the entity for its taxable year ending within or with the taxpayer's taxable year.

- (2) A New Jersey S Corporation shall not be allowed a tax credit pursuant to this section directly, but the amount of tax credit of a taxpayer in respect of a pro rata share of S Corporation income, shall be determined by allocating to the taxpayer that proportion of the tax credit acquired by the New Jersey S Corporation that is equal to the taxpayer's share, whether or not distributed, of the total pro rata share of S Corporation income of the New Jersey S Corporation for its privilege period ending within or with the taxpayer's taxable year.

A business entity that is not a gross income "taxpayer" as defined and used in the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., and therefore is not directly allowed a credit under this section, but otherwise meets all the other requirements of this section, shall be considered an eligible applicant and "taxpayer" as that term is used in this section, and the application of an otherwise allowed credit amount shall be distributed to appropriate gross income taxpayers pursuant to the other requirements of this subsection.

- e. A taxpayer, with an application for a tax credit provided for in subsection a. or subsection b. of this section, may apply to the authority and the director for a tax credit transfer certificate in lieu of the taxpayer being allowed any amount of the tax credit against the tax liability of the taxpayer. The tax credit transfer certificate, upon receipt thereof by the taxpayer from the authority and the director, may be sold or assigned, in full or in part, to any other taxpayer that may have a tax liability under the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., or the "Corporation Business Tax Act (1945)," P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-1 et seq.), in exchange for private financial assistance to be provided by the purchaser or assignee to the taxpayer that has applied for and been granted the tax credit. The tax credit transfer certificate provided to the taxpayer shall include a statement waiving the taxpayer's right to claim that amount of the tax credit against the tax imposed pursuant to N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. that the taxpayer has elected to sell or assign. The sale or assignment of any amount of a tax credit transfer certificate allowed under this section shall not be exchanged for consideration received by the taxpayer of less than 75 percent of the transferred tax credit amount. Any amount of a tax credit transfer certificate used by a purchaser or assignee against a tax liability under N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. shall be subject to the same limitations and conditions that apply to the use of a tax credit pursuant to subsections c. and d. of this section. Any amount of a tax credit transfer certificate obtained by a purchaser or assignee under ~~this~~ subsection e. **of this section** may be applied against the purchaser's or assignee's tax liability under P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-1 et seq.) and shall be subject to the same limitations and conditions that apply to the use of a credit pursuant to subsection c. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b).
- f. (1) The value of tax credits, including tax credits allowed through the granting of tax credit transfer certificates, approved by the director and the authority pursuant to subsection a. of this section and pursuant to subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b) shall not exceed a cumulative total of ~~\$75,000,000~~ **\$100,000,000** in fiscal year 2019 and in each fiscal year thereafter prior to fiscal year ~~2024~~ **2029** to apply against the tax imposed pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., and pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5). If the cumulative total amount of tax credits, and tax credit transfer certificates, allowed to taxpayers for taxable years or privilege periods commencing during a single fiscal year under subsection a. of this section and subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b) exceeds the amount of tax credits available in that fiscal year, then taxpayers who have first applied for and have

not been allowed a tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate amount for that reason shall be allowed, in the order in which they have submitted an application, the amount of tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate on the first day of the next succeeding fiscal year in which tax credits and tax credit transfer certificates under subsection a. of this section and subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b) are not in excess of the amount of credits available.

***Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (1) of this subsection to the contrary, for any fiscal year in which the amount of tax credits approved pursuant to this paragraph is less than the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved in that fiscal year, the authority shall certify the amount of the remaining tax credits available for approval in that fiscal year, and shall increase the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved in the subsequent fiscal year by the certified amount remaining from the prior fiscal year. The authority shall also certify, for each fiscal year, the amount of tax credits that were previously approved, but that the taxpayer is not able to redeem or transfer to another taxpayer under this section, and shall increase the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved in the subsequent fiscal year by the amount of tax credits previously approved, but not subject to redemption or transfer. The combined increase to the cumulative total permitted to be approved in a subsequent fiscal year pursuant to this paragraph shall not exceed \$50,000,000.***

- (2) The value of tax credits, including tax credits allowed through the granting of tax credit transfer certificates, approved by the authority and the director pursuant to subsection b. of this section and pursuant to subsection of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b) shall not exceed a cumulative total of \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2019 and in each fiscal year thereafter prior to fiscal year ~~2024~~ **2029** to apply against the tax imposed pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. and the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5). If the total amount of tax credits and tax credit transfer certificates allowed to taxpayers for taxable years or privilege periods commencing during a single fiscal year under subsection b. of this section and subsection b. of section ~~2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:4-12b)~~ **1 of P.L.2018, c.56, s.1 (C.54:10A-5.39b)** exceeds the amount of tax credits available in that year, then taxpayers who have first applied for and have not been allowed a tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate amount for that reason shall be allowed, in the order in which they have submitted an application, the amount of tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate on the first day of the next succeeding fiscal year in which tax credits and tax credit transfer certificates under subsection b. of this section and subsection b. of section ~~2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:4-12b)~~ **1 of P.L.2018, c.56, s.1 (C.54:10A-5.39b)** are not in excess of the amount of credits available.

g. A taxpayer shall submit to the authority and the director a report prepared by an independent certified public accountant licensed in this State to verify the taxpayer's tax credit claim following the completion of the production. The report shall be prepared by the independent certified public accountant pursuant to agreed upon procedures prescribed by the authority and the director ~~;~~ , and shall include such information and documentation as shall be determined to be necessary by the authority and the director to substantiate the qualified film production expenses or the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer. Upon receipt of the report, the authority and the director shall review the findings of the independent certified public accountant's report, and shall make a determination as to the qualified film production expenses or the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer. The determination shall be provided in writing to the taxpayer, and a copy of the written determination shall be included in the filing of a return that includes a claim for a tax credit allowed pursuant to this section.

h. A taxpayer shall withhold from each payment to a loan out company or to an independent

contractor an amount equal to 6.37 percent of the payment otherwise due. The amounts withheld shall be deemed to be withholding of liability pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., and the taxpayer shall be deemed to have the rights, duties, and responsibilities of an employer pursuant to chapter 7 of Title 54A of the New Jersey Statutes. The director shall allocate the amounts withheld for a taxable year to the accounts of the individuals who are employees of a loan out company in proportion to the employee's payment by the loan out company in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State during the taxable year. A loan out company that reports its payments to employees in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State during a taxable year shall be relieved of its duties and responsibilities as an employer pursuant to chapter 7 of Title 54A of the New Jersey Statutes for the taxable year for any payments relating to the payments on which the taxpayer withheld.

i. As used in this section:

"Authority" means the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

"Business assistance or incentive" means "business assistance or incentive" as that term is defined pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2007, c.101 (C.54:50-39).

"Commission" means the Motion Picture and Television Development Commission.

"Digital media content" means any data or information that is produced in digital form, including data or information created in analog form but reformatted in digital form, text, graphics, photographs, animation, sound, and video content. "Digital media content" ~~does~~ shall not mean content offerings generated by the end user (including postings on electronic bulletin boards and chat rooms); content offerings comprised primarily of local news, events, weather or local market reports; public service content; electronic commerce platforms (such as retail and wholesale websites); websites or content offerings that contain obscene material as defined pursuant to N.J.S.2C:34-2 and N.J.S.2C:34-3; websites or content that are produced or maintained primarily for private, industrial, corporate, or institutional purposes; or digital media content acquired or licensed by the taxpayer for distribution or incorporation into the taxpayer's digital media content.

"Film" means a feature film, a television series, or a television show of 22 minutes or more in length, intended for a national audience, or a television series or a television show of 22 minutes or more in length intended for a national or regional audience, including, but not limited to, a game show, award show, or other gala event filmed and produced at a nonprofit arts and cultural venue receiving State funding. "Film" shall not include a production featuring news, current events, weather, and market reports or public programming, talk show, sports event, or reality show, a production that solicits funds, a production containing obscene material as defined under N.J.S.2C:34-2 and N.J.S.2C:34-3, or a production primarily for private, industrial, corporate, or

institutional purposes. "Film" shall not include an award show or other gala event that is not filmed and produced at a nonprofit arts and cultural venue receiving State funding.

"Full-time or full-time equivalent employee" means an individual employed by the taxpayer for consideration for at least 35 hours a week, or who renders any other standard of service generally accepted by custom or practice as full-time or full-time equivalent employment, whose wages are subject to withholding as provided in the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., or who is a partner of a taxpayer, who works for the partnership for at least 35 hours a week, or who renders any other standard of service generally accepted by custom or practice as full-time or full-time equivalent employment, and whose distributive share of income, gain, loss, or deduction, or whose guaranteed payments, or any combination

thereof, is subject to the payment of estimated taxes, as provided in the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. "Full-time or full-time equivalent employee" shall not include an individual who works as an independent contractor or on a consulting basis for the taxpayer.

"Highly compensated individual" means an individual who directly or indirectly receives compensation in excess of \$500,000 for the performance of services used directly in a production. An individual receives compensation indirectly when the taxpayer pays a loan out company that, in turn, pays the individual for the performance of services.

"Independent contractor" means an individual treated as an independent contractor for federal and State tax purposes who is contracted with by the taxpayer for the performance of services used directly in a production.

"Loan out company" means a personal service corporation or other entity that is contracted with by the taxpayer to provide specified individual personnel, such as artists, crew, actors, producers, or directors for the performance of services used directly in a production. "Loan out company" ~~does~~ **shall** not include entities contracted with by the taxpayer to provide goods or ancillary contractor services such as catering, construction, trailers, equipment, or transportation.

"Partnership" means an entity classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

"Post-production costs" means the costs of the phase of production of a film that follows principal photography, in which raw footage is cut and assembled into a finished film with sound synchronization and visual effects.

"Pre-production costs" means the costs of the phase of production of a film that precedes principal photography, in which a detailed schedule and budget for the production is prepared, the script and location is finalized, and contracts with vendors are negotiated.

"Qualified digital media content production expenses" means an expense incurred in New Jersey for the production of digital media content. "Qualified digital media content production expenses" shall include but **shall** not be limited to: wages and salaries of individuals employed in the production of digital media content on which the tax imposed by the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. has been paid or is due; and the costs of computer software and hardware, data processing, visualization technologies, sound synchronization, editing, and the rental of facilities and equipment. Payment made to a loan out company or to an independent contractor shall not be **deemed** a "qualified digital media content production expense" unless the payment is made in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State and the taxpayer has made the withholding required ~~by~~ **pursuant to** subsection h. of this section. "Qualified digital media content production expenses" shall not include expenses incurred in marketing, promotion, or advertising digital media or other costs not directly related to the production of digital media content. Costs related to the acquisition or licensing of digital media content by the taxpayer for distribution or incorporation into the taxpayer's digital media content shall not be **deemed** "qualified digital media content production expenses."

"Qualified film production expenses" means an expense incurred in New Jersey for the production of a film including pre-production costs and post-production costs incurred in New Jersey. "Qualified film production expenses" shall include but ~~shall~~ not be limited to: wages and salaries of individuals employed in the production of a film on which the tax imposed by the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. has been paid or is due; and the costs for tangible personal property used, and services performed, directly and exclusively in the production of a film, such as expenditures for film production facilities, props, makeup, wardrobe, film processing, camera, sound recording, set construction, lighting, shooting,

editing, and meals. Payment made to a loan out company or to an independent contractor shall not be **deemed** a "qualified film production expense" unless the payment is made in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State and the taxpayer has made the withholding required by subsection h. of this section. "Qualified film production expenses" shall not include: expenses incurred in marketing or advertising a film; and payment in excess of \$500,000 to a highly compensated individual for costs for a story, script, or scenario used in the production of a film and wages or salaries or other compensation for writers, directors, including music directors, producers, and performers, other than background actors with no scripted lines.

"Total digital media content production expenses" means costs for services performed and property used or consumed in the production of digital media content.

"Total film production expenses" means costs for services performed and tangible personal property used or consumed in the production of a film.

(cf: P.L.2018, c.56, s.2)

3. Section 4 of P.L.2018, c.56 is amended to read as follows:

4. ~~a.~~ A taxpayer, upon approval of an application to the authority and the director, shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) in an amount equal to 2 percent of the qualified film or digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer during a privilege period commencing on or after July 1, 2018 but before July 1, ~~2023~~ **2028**, provided that:

~~(a)~~ **a.** the application is accompanied by a diversity plan outlining specific goals, which may include advertising and recruitment actions, for hiring minority persons and women;

~~(b)~~ **b.** the director and the authority have approved the plan as meeting the requirements established by the director and the authority; and

~~(c)~~ **c.** the director and the authority have verified that the applicant has met or made good-faith efforts in achieving those goals.

The director and the authority shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this provision.

The application shall indicate whether the applicant intends to participate in training, education, and recruitment programs that are organized in cooperation with State colleges and universities, labor organizations, and the motion picture industry and are designed to promote and encourage the training and hiring of New Jersey residents who represent the diversity of the State population.

~~4. (New Section) Within 2 years of the effective date of P.L., c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), and every second year thereafter that tax credits are granted pursuant to P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b et al.), the authority shall assess and report to the Governor, and pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the Legislature, the benefits the film and digital media tax credits create for the State relative to the costs of the tax credits to the State.~~

~~4-5.~~ **4.** This act shall take effect immediately.