

# TX S 22, Engrossed

Texas

SUMMARY: Relates to the State moving image industry incentive program and the establishment and funding of the State moving image industry incentive fund.~SAME AS: TX H 4568#

Changes in Bill text reflected as:

~~Text Deleted~~

*Text Added*

~~Text Vetoed~~

Current Legislative Status

03/11/2025 INTRODUCED.

03/12/2025 To SENATE Committee on FINANCE.

03/31/2025 Scheduled for public hearing 3/31/2025.

03/31/2025 Considered in public hearing.

03/31/2025 Testimony taken in committee.

03/31/2025 Vote taken in Committee.

04/02/2025 From SENATE Committee on FINANCE: Reported favorably with substitute.

04/02/2025 Committee report printed and distributed.

04/04/2025 Placed on intent calendar 04/07/2025.

04/16/2025 Amended on SENATE floor.

04/16/2025 Passed SENATE. \*\*\*\*\*To HOUSE.

~

session: Texas 89th Legislature

cite: 2025 TX S 22

Engrossed

April 16, 2025

Huffman

By: Huffman, et al.

S.B. No. 22

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Texas moving image industry incentive program and the establishment and funding of the Texas moving image industry incentive fund.

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

ARTICLE 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

SECTION 1.01. It is the intent of the legislature that the Music, Film, Television, and Multimedia 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 and that the office shall consider general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the citizens of Texas when determining whether to act on or deny a grant application.

ARTICLE 2. TEXAS MOVING IMAGE INDUSTRY INCENTIVE PROGRAM; FUND

SECTION 2.01. Section 485.021, Government Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

***(1-a) "Incentive fund" means the Texas moving image industry incentive fund established under Section 485.0225.***

SECTION 2.02. Section 485.022, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (f) and adding Subsections (g), (h), (i), and (j) to read as follows:

(a) The office shall administer a grant program for production companies that produce moving image projects in this state :

***(1) using money from the incentive fund; or***

***(2) to the extent that gifts, grants, donations, or other money, including appropriations, are made available to the office for that purpose.***

***(f) The following types of projects are not eligible for grants under this subchapter:***

***(1) pornography or obscene material, as defined by Section 43.21, Penal Code;***

***(2) news, current event or public access programming, political advertising, including public service announcements that advance a public policy or political position, or programs that include weather or market reports;***

***(3) local events or religious services;***

***(4) productions not intended for commercial, educational, or instructional distribution;***

***(5) sporting events or activities;***

***(6) awards shows, galas, or telethons and similar programs that solicit funds;***

***(7) projects intended for undergraduate or graduate course credit;***

***(8) application software, system software, or middleware;***

***(9) casino-type video games and interactive digital media experiences used in a gambling device, as defined by Section 47.01, Penal Code; or***

***(10) commercials or advertising for this state or any agency or department of this state.***

***(g) Subsection (f) is not an exclusive list of the types of projects that are ineligible for a grant under this subchapter. The office has broad authority to:***

***(1) designate other types of projects as ineligible for a grant;***

***(2) elect not to take action on a grant application;***

***(3) deny a grant application; or***

***(4) award a grant.***

***(h) As part of the preliminary application process ~~Before a grant is awarded under this subchapter~~, the office shall review the proposed content of a moving image project in the manner provided by office rule and advise the prospective applicant whether the content will preclude the project from receiving a grant under this subchapter.***

***(i) Once an approved project has been completed, the office shall review the final content before issuing the grant payment to :***

***~~(1) require a copy of the final script; and~~***

***~~(2)~~ determine if any substantial changes occurred during production on a moving image project to include content described by Subsection (e) ***or (f).******

***(j) The office has broad discretion to rescind preliminary approval at any point in the grant process.***

SECTION 2.03. Subchapter B, Chapter 485, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 485.0225 to read as follows:

***Sec. 485.0225. TEXAS MOVING IMAGE INDUSTRY INCENTIVE FUND. (a) In this section, "trust company" means the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company.***

*(b) The Texas moving image industry incentive fund is established as a fund outside the state treasury to be held and invested by the trust company and administered by the office.*

*(c) Money in the incentive fund may be spent without legislative appropriation and may be used only for the purposes of awarding grants under this subchapter and paying the trust company's expenses of managing the incentive fund's assets.*

*(d) The incentive fund consists of:*

*(1) money appropriated, transferred, or deposited to the credit of the incentive fund by the legislature;*

*(2) money, including the proceeds of a fee or tax imposed by this state, that by statute is dedicated for deposit to the credit of the incentive fund;*

*(3) investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the incentive fund; and*

*(4) gifts, grants, and donations made to the office and deposited to the credit of the incentive fund.*

*(e) The trust company shall hold and invest the incentive fund. The incentive fund may be invested with the state treasury pool and may be pooled with other state assets for purposes of investment.*

*(f) The overall objective for the investment of the incentive fund is to maintain sufficient liquidity to meet the needs of the incentive fund while striving to preserve the purchasing power of the incentive fund over a full economic cycle.*

*(g) The trust company may acquire, exchange, sell, supervise, manage, or retain any kind of investment that a prudent investor, exercising reasonable care, skill, and caution, would acquire or retain in light of the purposes, terms, distribution requirements, and other circumstances of the incentive fund then prevailing, taking into consideration the investment of all the assets of the incentive fund rather than a single investment.*

*(h) The expenses of managing the incentive fund's assets shall be paid from the incentive fund.*

*(i) The office annually shall provide to the trust company a forecast of the cash flows into and out of the incentive fund. The office shall provide updates to the forecast as appropriate to ensure the trust company is able to achieve the objective specified by Subsection (f).*

*(j) The trust company shall disburse money from the incentive fund as directed by the office.*

SECTION 2.04. 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;

(2) ~~at least 55 percent of the production crew, actors, and extras for a moving image project must be Texas residents~~ unless the office determines and certifies in writing that a sufficient number of qualified crew, actors, and extras are not available to the company at the time principal photography begins, *the percentage of the production crew, actors, and extras for a moving image project who are Texas residents must be at least:*

*(A) 35 percent for a moving image project that begins principal photography on or after September 1, 2025, and before September 1, 2027;*

*(B) 40 percent for a moving image project that begins principal photography on or after September 1, 2027, and before September 1, 2029;*

*(C) 45 percent for a moving image project that begins principal photography on or after September 1, 2029, and before September 1, 2031; and*

***(D) 50 percent for a moving image project that begins principal photography on or after September 1, 2031;***

(3) at least 60 percent of the moving image project must be filmed in Texas; and

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

SECTION 2.05. Sections 485.024(a) and (c), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Section 485.025, ***for a moving image project that is:***

***(1) a feature film, a television program other than a reality television program, or a visual effects project for a feature film or television program other than a reality television program with total in-state spending of:***

***(A) at least \$250,000 but less than \$1 million, the amount of a grant under this subchapter is equal to five percent of total in-state spending for the project;***

***(B) at least \$1 million but less than \$1.5 million, the amount of a grant under this subchapter is equal to 10 percent of total in-state spending for the project; or***

***(C) at least \$1.5 million, the amount of a grant under this subchapter is equal to 25 percent of total in-state spending for the project;***

***(2) a digital interactive media production with total in-state spending of:***

***(A) at least \$100,000 but less than \$1 million, the amount of a grant under this subchapter is equal to five percent of total in-state spending for the project;***

***(B) at least \$1 million but less than \$1.5 million, the amount of a grant under this subchapter is equal to 10 percent of total in-state spending for the project; or***

***(C) at least \$1.5 million, the amount of a grant under this subchapter is equal to 25 percent of total in-state spending for the project;***

***(3) a reality television program as defined by office rule with total in-state spending of:***

***(A) at least \$250,000 but less than \$1 million, the amount of a grant under this subchapter is equal to five percent of total in-state spending for the project; or***

***(B) at least \$1 million, the amount of a grant under this subchapter is equal to 10 percent of total in-state spending for the project; or***

***(4) a commercial, a series of commercials, an educational or instructional video, a series of educational or instructional videos, or a visual effects project for a commercial, series of commercials, educational or instructional video, or series of educational or instructional videos with total in-state spending of:***

***(A) at least \$100,000 but less than \$1 million, the amount of a grant under this subchapter is equal to five percent of total in-state spending for the project; or***

***(B) at least \$1 million, the amount of a grant under this subchapter is equal to 10 percent of total in-state spending for the project ~~may not exceed the amount established by office rule. The office shall adopt rules prescribing the method the office will use to calculate the amount of a grant under this subsection. The office shall publish a written summary of the method for determining grants before awarding a grant under this section. The method must consider at a minimum:~~***

***~~(1) the current and likely future effect a moving image project will have on employment, tourism, and economic activity in this state; and~~***

***~~(2) the amount of a production company's in-state spending for a moving image project.~~***

(c) The office may **only** make a grant from ***the incentive fund or*** appropriated funds.

SECTION 2.06. Section 485.025, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 485.025. ADDITIONAL ~~GRANTS GRANT~~ FOR ~~CERTAIN PROJECTS UNDERUTILIZED AND ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS~~. (a) In addition to the grant calculated under Section 485.024, a production company *is eligible for:*

(1) *a Texas heritage grant in an amount equal to 2.5 percent of total in-state spending for a moving image project that qualifies under Subsection (b);*

(2) *a rural filming grant in an amount equal to 2.5 percent of total in-state spending for a moving image project that qualifies under Subsection (c);*

(3) *a postproduction grant in an amount equal to one percent of total in-state spending for a moving image project that qualifies under Subsection (d);*

(4) *a Texas veterans grant in an amount equal to 2.5 percent of total in-state spending for a moving image project that qualifies under Subsection (e); or*

(5) *a faith-based moving image project grant in an amount equal to 2.5 percent of total in-state spending for a moving image project that qualifies under Subsection (f).*

(b) *A moving image project qualifies for a Texas heritage grant under Subsection (a)(1) if the project is designated by the office as a Texas heritage project according to rules adopted by the office. The office is not required to designate any moving image project as a Texas heritage project and has sole discretion to make that designation. In determining whether to designate a moving image project as a Texas heritage project, the office shall consider:*

(1) *the project's current and likely future effect on the promotion of family values; or*

(2) *whether the project portrays Texas and Texans in a positive fashion.*

(c) *A moving image project qualifies for a rural filming grant under Subsection (a)(2) if the production company spends at least 35 percent of the project's filming days or man hours, as applicable and as defined by office rule, in a county in this state with a population of 300,000 or less.*

(d) *A moving image project qualifies for a postproduction grant under Subsection (a)(3) if at least 25 percent of the total in-state spending for the project is spent by the production company during postproduction on eligible expenditures as provided by office rule, including expenditures for labor, vendor, and music costs.*

(e) *A moving image project qualifies for a Texas veterans grant under Subsection (a)(4) if at least five percent of the production crew, actors, and extras for the project are Texas residents who served in and were honorably discharged from:*

(1) *the army, navy, air force, coast guard, or marine corps of the United States;*

(2) *the Texas National Guard as defined by Section 431.001; or*

(3) *a reserve component of an entity listed in Subdivision (1) or (2).*

(f) *A moving image project qualifies for a faith-based moving image project grant under Subsection (a)(5) if the project is designated by the office as a faith-based moving image project according to rules adopted by the office. The office is not required to designate any moving image project as a faith-based moving image project and has sole discretion to make that designation.*

(g) *A moving image project may qualify for and receive more than one additional grant under Subsection (a). However, the total amount of all grants received by a moving image project may not exceed 31 percent of the total in-state spending for the project ~~that spends at least 25 percent of a moving image project's filming days in an underutilized and economically distressed area is eligible for an additional grant in an amount equal to 2.5 percent of the total amount of the production company's in-state spending for the moving image project.~~*

SECTION 2.07. Section 151.801, Tax Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(a) Except for ~~the~~ amounts *otherwise* allocated under *this section Subsections (b), (c), (e-2), (e-3), and (f)*, all proceeds from the collection of the taxes imposed by this chapter shall be deposited to the credit of the



general revenue fund.

***(g) Not later than the 30th day of each state fiscal biennium, the comptroller shall deposit to the credit of the Texas moving image industry incentive fund established under Section 485.0225, Government Code, \$500 million of the proceeds from the collection of the taxes imposed by this chapter.***

SECTION 2.08. (a) The Music, Film, Television, and Multimedia Office shall adopt rules necessary to implement and administer Subchapter B, Chapter 485, Government Code, as amended by this article.

(b) The comptroller of public accounts may adopt rules necessary to implement and administer Section 485.0225, Government Code, as added by this article.

### ARTICLE 3. SUNSET PROVISIONS

SECTION 3.01. Effective September 1, 2035, Sections 485.022(a) and (f), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The office shall administer a grant program for production companies that produce moving image projects in this state, to the extent that gifts, grants, donations, or other money, including appropriations, are made available to the office for that purpose.

(f) Before a grant is awarded under this subchapter, the office shall:

- (1) require a copy of the final script; and
- (2) determine if any substantial changes occurred during production on a moving image project to include content described by Subsection (e).

SECTION 3.02. Effective September 1, 2035, 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;

(2) at least 55 percent of the production crew, actors, and extras for a moving image project must be Texas residents unless the office determines and certifies in writing that a sufficient number of qualified crew, actors, and extras are not available to the company at the time principal photography begins;

(3) at least 60 percent of the moving image project must be filmed in Texas; and

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

SECTION 3.03. Effective September 1, 2035, Sections 485.024(a) and (c), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Section 485.025, a grant under this subchapter may not exceed the amount established by office rule. The office shall adopt rules prescribing the method the office will use to calculate the amount of a grant under this subsection. The office shall publish a written summary of the method for determining grants before awarding a grant under this section. The method must consider at a minimum:

(1) the current and likely future effect a moving image project will have on employment, tourism, and economic activity in this state; and

(2) the amount of a production company's in-state spending for a moving image project.

(c) The office may only make a grant from appropriated funds.

SECTION 3.04. Effective September 1, 2035, Section 485.025, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 485.025. ADDITIONAL GRANT FOR UNDERUTILIZED AND ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS. In

addition to the grant calculated under Section 485.024, a production company that spends at least 25 percent of a moving image project's filming days in an underutilized and economically distressed area is eligible for an additional grant in an amount equal to 2.5 percent of the total amount of the production company's in-state spending for the moving image project.

SECTION 3.05. The following provisions added by Article 2 of this Act expire on August 31, 2035:

- (1) Section 485.021(1-a), Government Code;
- (2) Sections 485.022(g), (h), (i), and (j), Government Code;
- (3) Section 485.0225, Government Code; and
- (4) Section 151.801(g), Tax Code.

SECTION 3.06. (a) On August 31, 2035, the Texas moving image industry incentive fund established under Section 485.0225, Government Code, as added by Article 2 of this Act, is abolished and the unencumbered and unspent balance of the fund on that date is transferred to the general revenue fund.

(b) Notwithstanding the changes in law made by this article, a grant awarded under Subchapter B, Chapter 485, Government Code, on or after September 1, 2025, and before September 1, 2035, is governed by that subchapter as amended by Article 2 of this Act and any subsequent amendments to that law by the legislature in effect on the date the grant is awarded, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

(c) A grant awarded under Subchapter B, Chapter 485, Government Code, on or after September 1, 2035, is governed by that subchapter as amended by this article.

#### ARTICLE 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 4.01. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.