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# California Film Commission

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## California Film & Television Tax Credit Program

The California Film & TV Television Tax Credit Program began accepting applications for the upcoming fiscal year tax credit allocation on June 1, 2011. Due to the overwhelming demand, the Program is now fully subscribed and there is a waiting list of over 150 projects. If you are interested in applying for the Tax Credit Program, please contact the Film Commission at (323) 860-2960 ext. 110 to discuss the current status of the waiting list or email the Film Commission at [incentiveprogram@film.ca.gov](mailto:incentiveprogram@film.ca.gov).

The California Film Commission is pleased to offer incentives for the third year of the tax credit program, along with all of our existing services.

The following is a brief description of the program parameters:

### How the Tax Credit Works

Qualified taxpayers are allowed a credit against income and/or sales and use taxes, based on qualified expenditures, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2011. Credits applied to income tax liability are not refundable. Only tax credits issued to an "independent film" may be transferred or sold to an unrelated party. Other qualified taxpayers may carryover tax credits for 5 years and transfer tax credits to an affiliate.

### What Types of Productions Qualify for the Program?

To apply for the California Film and Television Incentive Program, a "qualified motion picture" must be one of the following:

#### (Eligible for 20% Tax Credit):

- Feature Films (\$1 million minimum - \$75 million maximum production budget)
- Movies of the Week or Miniseries (\$500,000 minimum production budget)
- New television series licensed for original distribution on basic cable (\$1 million minimum budget; one-half hour shows and other exclusions apply)

#### (Eligible for 25% Tax Credit):

- A television series, without regard to episode length, that filmed all of its prior seasons outside

of California.

- An "independent film" (\$1 million total production budget - \$10 million qualified expenditure budget that is produced by a company that is not publicly traded and that publicly traded companies do not own more than 25% of the producing company.)

A "qualified motion picture" must also meet the following conditions:

- 75% test (production days or total production budget) in California
- Application must be submitted at least 30 days prior to commencement of principal photography
- Once an application is approved, principal photography must begin within 180 days

### **How much was allocated to the program?**

- \$100 million annually beginning fiscal year 2009/2010 through fiscal year 2013/2014
- A minimum of \$10 million of the annual funding is available for independent films each year

Applications may be sent to the CFC offices via hand delivery, FedEx, UPS or other private mail service, U.S. Postal Service, or via messenger. Applications may **not** be faxed or sent electronically via e-mail.

Address:

California Film Commission

7080 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 900 Hollywood, CA 90028

Attn: California Film & Television Tax Credit Program

Phone: 323-860-2960 X110

The California Film Commission is delighted to offer this incentive program along with all of our existing services.

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## **Original URL:**

<http://www.film.ca.gov/Incentives.htm>

## **Assembly Bill No. 15**

### **CHAPTER 10**

**An act to amend Sections 17039.2, 23036.2, 23101, 25120, and 25135 of, to amend, repeal, and add Section 25136 of, to add Sections 6902.5, 17053.85, 19136.8, 23685, and 25128.5 to, and to add and repeal Sections 17053.80 and 23623 of, the Revenue and Taxation Code, relating to taxation, to take effect immediately, tax levy.**

[ Approved by Governor February 20, 2009. Filed Secretary of State February 20, 2009.  
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#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 15, Krekorian. Taxation: credits: apportionment: sales factor.

The Personal Income Tax Law and the Corporation Tax Law authorize various credits against the taxes imposed by those laws.

This bill would authorize a credit against those taxes for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, in an amount equal to a specified percentage of the qualified expenditures, as defined, attributable to the production of a qualified motion picture in California, or, where the qualified motion picture has relocated to California or is an independent film, as provided. This bill would authorize the sale of credits, attributable to an independent film, to an unrelated party.

This bill would, until for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, in lieu of the credits authorized under the Personal Income Tax Law and the Corporation Tax Law for qualified motion pictures, allow a credit against qualified state sales and use taxes, as provided. This bill would impose specified duties on the California Film Commission, the Franchise Tax Board, and the State Board of Equalization, in administering the credits.

This bill would require the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency to report to the Legislature regarding the economic impact of specified tax incentives created by the bill, as specified.

This bill would, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2009, and before January 1, 2011, authorize a credit, under both laws, in an amount equal to \$3,000, prorated as provided, for each full-time employee hired during the taxable year by a qualified employer, as defined.

The Corporation Tax Law imposes taxes measured by income and, in the case of a business with income derived from or attributable to sources both within and without this state, apportions the income between this state and other states and foreign countries in accordance with a specified 4-factor formula based on the property, payroll, and sales within and without this state, except that in the case of an apportioning trade or business that derives more than 50% of its gross business receipts from conducting one or more qualified business activities, as defined, business income is apportioned in accordance with a specified 3-factor formula.

This bill would, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, allow a taxpayer to have that income apportioned in accordance with a single sales factor formula, except as provided.

The California Constitution authorizes the Governor to declare a fiscal emergency and to call the Legislature into special session for that purpose. The Governor issued a proclamation declaring a fiscal emergency, and calling a special session for this purpose, on December 19, 2008.

This bill would state that it addresses the fiscal emergency declared by the Governor by proclamation issued on December 19, 2008, pursuant to the California Constitution.

This bill would take effect immediately as a tax levy.

Vote: MAJORITY Appropriation: NO Fiscal Committee: YES Local Program: NO  
Urgency: YES Tax Levy: YES

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## **THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Section 6902.5 is added to the Revenue and Taxation Code, to read:

**6902.5.** (a) For the purposes of this section:

- (1) "Qualified taxpayer" means a person who is a qualified taxpayer within the meaning of paragraph (17) of subdivision (b) of Section 17053.85 or 23685.
- (2) "Affiliate" means a qualified taxpayer's affiliated corporation that has been assigned any portion of the credit amount by the qualified taxpayer pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 23685.
- (3) "Credit amount" means an amount equal to the tax credit amount that would otherwise be allowed to a qualified taxpayer pursuant to Section 17053.85 or 23685 but for the election made pursuant to this section.
- (4) "Production period" means the production period as defined in paragraph (12) of subdivision (b) of Section 17053.85 or 23685.

(5) (A) “Qualified sales and use taxes” means any state sales and use taxes imposed by Part 1 (commencing with Section 6001), on the operative date of the act adding this section.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), “qualified sales and use taxes” does not mean taxes imposed by Section 6051.2, 6051.5, 6201.2, 6201.5, Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 7200), Part 1.6 (commencing with Section 7251), or Section 35 of Article XIII of the California Constitution.

(b) (1) A qualified taxpayer may, in lieu of claiming the credit allowed by Section 17053.85 or 23685, make an irrevocable election to apply the credit amount against qualified sales and use taxes imposed on the qualified taxpayer in accordance with this section.

(2) An affiliate may, in lieu of claiming the assigned portion of the credit allowed by Section 23685, make an irrevocable election to apply the assigned portion of the credit amount against qualified sales and use taxes imposed on the affiliate in accordance with this section.

(c) (1) A qualified taxpayer or affiliate shall submit to the board an irrevocable election, in a form as prescribed by the board, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

(A) Representation that the claimant is a qualified taxpayer or an affiliate.

(B) Statement of the dates on which the production period began and ended.

(C) The credit amount, and if an affiliate, the portion of the credit amount assigned to it and documentation supporting the assignment of that portion of the credit amount.

(D) The amount of qualified sales and use taxes the claimant remitted to the board during the period commencing on the first day of the calendar quarter commencing immediately before the beginning of the production period, and ending on the date the claimant was required to file its most recent sales and use tax return with the board.

(E) A copy of the credit certificate issued pursuant to subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (g) of Section 17053.85 or 23685.

(2) The election shall be filed on or before the date on which the qualified taxpayer or affiliate would first be allowed to claim a credit pursuant to Section 17053.85 or 23685 on its tax return.

(d) (1) The claimant may elect to obtain a refund of qualified sales and use taxes paid during the period described in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c). If the claimant elects to obtain a refund of qualified sales and use taxes, the claimant shall file a claim for refund with the irrevocable election described in subdivision (c). The refund amount shall not exceed, for a qualified taxpayer, the credit amount, or for an affiliate, the portion of the credit amount assigned to it.

(2) No interest shall be paid on any amount refunded or credited pursuant to paragraph (1).

(e) If the claimant does not elect to obtain a refund or in the case where the credit amount, or assigned portion, exceeds the amount of its claim for refund for the qualified sales and use taxes, the claimant may, for the reporting periods in the five years following the last reporting period as described in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c), offset any remaining credit amount, or assigned portion, against the qualified sales and use taxes imposed during those reporting periods.

(f) Section 6961 shall apply to any refund, or part thereof, that is erroneously made and any credit, or part thereof, that is erroneously allowed pursuant to this section.

(g) The board shall provide an annual listing to the Franchise Tax Board, in a form and manner agreed upon by the board and the Franchise Tax Board, of the qualified taxpayers, or affiliates that have been assigned a portion of the credit allowed under Section 23685 pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 23685, who, during the year, have made an irrevocable election pursuant to this section and the credit amount, or portion of the credit amount, claimed by each qualified taxpayer or affiliate.

(h) The board may prescribe rules and regulations for the administration of this section.

**SEC. 4.** Section 17053.85 is added to the Revenue and Taxation Code, to read:

**17053.85.** (a) (1) For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, there shall be allowed to a qualified taxpayer a credit against the "net tax," as defined in Section 17039, in an amount equal to the applicable percentage, as specified in paragraph (4), of the qualified expenditures for the production of a qualified motion picture in California.

(2) The credit shall be allowed for the taxable year in which the California Film Commission issues the credit certificate pursuant to subdivision (g) for the qualified motion picture, and shall be for the applicable percentage of all qualified expenditures paid or incurred by the qualified taxpayer in all taxable years for that qualified motion picture.

(3) The amount of the credit allowed to a qualified taxpayer shall be limited to the amount specified in the credit certificate issued to the qualified taxpayer by the California Film Commission pursuant to subdivision (g).

(4) For purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2), the applicable percentage shall be:

(A) Twenty percent of the qualified expenditures attributable to the production of a qualified motion picture in California.

(B) Twenty-five percent of the qualified expenditures attributable to the production of a qualified motion picture in California where the qualified motion picture is a television series that relocated to California or an independent film.

(b) For purposes of this section:

(1) “Ancillary product” means any article for sale to the public that contains a portion of, or any element of, the qualified motion picture.

(2) “Budget” means an estimate of all expenses paid or incurred during the production period of a qualified motion picture. It shall be the same budget used by the qualified taxpayer and production company for all qualified motion picture purposes.

(3) “Clip use” means a use of any portion of a motion picture, other than the qualified motion picture, used in the qualified motion picture.

(4) “Credit certificate” means the certificate issued by the California Film Commission pursuant to subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (g).

(5) (A) “Employee fringe benefits” means the amount allowable as a deduction under this part to the qualified taxpayer involved in the production of the qualified motion picture, exclusive of any amounts contributed by employees, for any year during the production period with respect to any of the following:

(i) Employer contributions under any pension, profit-sharing, annuity, or similar plan.

(ii) Employer-provided coverage under any accident or health plan for employees.

(iii) The employer’s cost of life or disability insurance provided to employees.

(B) Any amount treated as wages under clause (i) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (18) shall not be taken into account under this paragraph.

(6) “Independent film” means a motion picture with a minimum budget of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) and a maximum budget of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) that is produced by a company that is not publicly traded and publicly traded companies do not own, directly or indirectly, more than 25 percent of the producing company.

(7) “Licensing” means any grant of rights to distribute the qualified motion picture, in whole or in part.

(8) “New use” means any use of a motion picture in a medium other than the medium for which it was initially created.

(9) (A) “Postproduction” means the final activities in a qualified motion picture’s production, including editing, foley recording, automatic dialogue replacement, sound editing, scoring and music editing, beginning and end credits, negative cutting, negative processing and duplication, the addition of sound and visual effects, soundmixing, film-to-tape transfers, encoding, and color correction.

(B) “Postproduction” does not include the manufacture or shipping of release prints.

(10) “Preproduction” means the process of preparation for actual physical production which begins after a qualified motion picture has received a firm agreement of financial commitment, or is greenlit, with, for example, the establishment of a dedicated production office, the hiring of key crew members, and includes, but is not limited to, activities that include location scouting and execution of contracts with vendors of equipment and stage space.

(11) “Principal photography” means the phase of production during which the motion picture is actually shot, as distinguished from preproduction and postproduction.

(12) “Production period” means the period beginning with preproduction and ending upon completion of postproduction.

(13) “Qualified entity” means a personal service corporation as defined in Section 269A(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code, a payroll services corporation, or any entity receiving qualified wages with respect to services performed by a qualified individual.

(14) (A) “Qualified individual” means any individual who performs services during the production period in an activity related to the production of a qualified motion picture.

(B) “Qualified individual” shall not include either of the following:

(i) Any individual related to the qualified taxpayer as described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of Section 51(i)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(ii) Any 5 percent owner, as defined in Section 416(i)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code, of the qualified taxpayer.

(15) (A) “Qualified motion picture” means a motion picture that is produced for distribution to the general public, regardless of medium that is one of the following:

(i) A feature with a minimum production budget of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) and a maximum production budget of seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000).

(ii) A movie of the week or miniseries with a minimum production budget of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

(iii) A new television series produced in California with a minimum production budget of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) licensed for original distribution on basic cable.

(iv) An independent film.

(v) A television series that relocated to California.

(B) To qualify as a “qualified motion picture,” all of the following conditions shall be satisfied:



(i) At least 75 percent of the production days occur wholly in California or 75 percent of the production budget is incurred for payment for services performed within the state and the purchase or rental of property used within the state.

(ii) Production of the qualified motion picture is completed within 30 months from the date on which the qualified taxpayer's application is approved by the California Film Commission. For purposes of this section, a qualified motion picture is "completed" when the process of postproduction has been finished.

(iii) The copyright for the motion picture is registered with the United States Copyright Office pursuant to Title 17 of the United States Code.

(iv) Principal photography of the qualified motion picture commences after the date on which the application is approved by the California Film Commission, but no later than 180 days after the date of that approval.

(C) For the purposes of subparagraph (A), in computing the total wages paid or incurred for the production of a qualified motion picture, all amounts paid or incurred by all persons or entities that share in the costs of the qualified motion picture shall be aggregated.

(D) "Qualified motion picture" shall not include commercial advertising, music videos, a motion picture produced for private noncommercial use, such as weddings, graduations, or as part of an educational course and made by students, a news program, current events or public events program, talk show, game show, sporting event or activity, awards show, telethon or other production that solicits funds, reality television program, clip-based programming if more than 50 percent of the content is comprised of licensed footage, documentaries, variety programs, daytime dramas, strip shows, one-half hour (air time) episodic television shows, or any production that falls within the recordkeeping requirements of Section 2257 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

(16) "Qualified expenditure" means amounts paid or incurred to purchase or lease tangible personal property used within this state in the production of a qualified motion picture and payments, including qualified wages, for services performed within this state in the production of a qualified motion picture.

(17) (A) "Qualified taxpayer" means a taxpayer who has paid or incurred qualified expenditures and has been issued a credit certificate by the California Film Commission pursuant to subdivision (g).

(B) In the case of any passthrough entity, the determination of whether a taxpayer is a qualified taxpayer under this section shall be made at the entity level and any credit under this section is not allowed to the passthrough entity, but shall be passed through to the partners or shareholders in accordance with applicable provisions of Part 10 (commencing with Section 17001) or Part 11 (commencing with Section 23001). For purposes of this paragraph, "passthrough entity" means any entity taxed as a partnership or "S" corporation.

(18) (A) “Qualified wages” means all of the following:

(i) Any wages required to be reported under Section 13050 of the Unemployment Insurance Code that were paid or incurred by any taxpayer involved in the production of a qualified motion picture with respect to a qualified individual for services performed on the qualified motion picture production within this state.

(ii) The portion of any employee fringe benefits paid or incurred by any taxpayer involved in the production of the qualified motion picture that are properly allocable to qualified wage amounts described in clause (i).

(iii) Any payments made to a qualified entity for services performed in this state by qualified individuals within the meaning of paragraph (14).

(iv) Remuneration paid to an independent contractor who is a qualified individual for services performed within this state by that qualified individual.

(B) “Qualified wages” shall not include any of the following:

(i) Expenses, including wages, related to new use, reuse, clip use, licensing, secondary markets, or residual compensation, or the creation of any ancillary product, including, but not limited to, a soundtrack album, toy, game, trailer, or teaser.

(ii) Expenses, including wages, paid or incurred with respect to acquisition, development, turnaround, or any rights thereto.

(iii) Expenses, including wages, related to financing, overhead, marketing, promotion, or distribution of a qualified motion picture.

(iv) Expenses, including wages, paid per person per qualified motion picture for writers, directors, music directors, music composers, music supervisors, producers, and performers, other than background actors with no scripted lines.

(19) “Residual compensation” means supplemental compensation paid at the time that a motion picture is exhibited through new use, reuse, clip use, or in secondary markets, as distinguished from payments made during production.

(20) “Reuse” means any use of a qualified motion picture in the same medium for which it was created, following the initial use in that medium.

(21) “Secondary markets” means media in which a qualified motion picture is exhibited following the initial media in which it is exhibited.

(22) “Television series that relocated to California” means a television series, without regard to episode length or initial media exhibition, that filmed all of its prior season or seasons outside of

California and for which the taxpayer certifies that the credit provided pursuant to this section is the primary reason for relocating to California.

(c) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, a qualified taxpayer may sell any credit allowed under this section that is attributable to an independent film, as defined in paragraph (6) of subdivision (b), to an unrelated party.

(2) The qualified taxpayer shall report to the Franchise Tax Board prior to the sale of the credit, in the form and manner specified by the Franchise Tax Board, all required information regarding the purchase and sale of the credit, including the social security or other taxpayer identification number of the unrelated party to whom the credit has been sold, the face amount of the credit sold, and the amount of consideration received by the qualified taxpayer for the sale of the credit.

(3) In the case where the credit allowed under this section exceeds the “net tax,” the excess credit may be carried over to reduce the “net tax” in the following taxable year, and succeeding five taxable years, if necessary, until the credit has been exhausted.

(4) A credit shall not be sold pursuant to this subdivision to more than one taxpayer, nor may the credit be resold by the unrelated party to another taxpayer or other party.

(5) A party that has acquired tax credits under this section shall be subject to the requirements of this section.

(6) In no event may a qualified taxpayer assign or sell any tax credit to the extent the tax credit allowed by this section is claimed on any tax return of the qualified taxpayer.

(7) In the event that both the taxpayer originally allocated a credit under this section by the California Film Commission and a taxpayer to whom the credit has been sold both claim the same amount of credit on their tax returns, the Franchise Tax Board may disallow the credit of either taxpayer, so long as the statute of limitations upon assessment remains open.

(8) Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code does not apply to any standard, criterion, procedure, determination, rule, notice, or guideline established or issued by the Franchise Tax Board pursuant to this subdivision.

(d) No credit shall be allowed pursuant to this section unless the qualified taxpayer provides the following to the California Film Commission:

(1) Identification of each qualified individual.

(2) The specific start and end dates of production.

(3) The total wages paid.

(4) The amount of qualified wages paid to each qualified individual.

(5) The copyright registration number, as reflected on the certificate of registration issued under the authority of Section 410 of Title 17 of the United States Code, relating to registration of claim and issuance of certificate. The registration number shall be provided on the return claiming the credit.

(6) The total amounts paid or incurred to purchase or lease tangible personal property used in the production of a qualified motion picture.

(7) Information to substantiate its qualified expenditures.

(8) Information required by the California Film Commission under regulations promulgated pursuant to subdivision (g) necessary to verify the amount of credit claimed.

(e) The California Film Commission may prescribe rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of this section including any rules and regulations necessary to establish procedures, processes, requirements, and rules identified in or required to implement this section. The regulations shall include provisions to set aside a percentage of annual credit allocations for independent films.

(f) If the qualified taxpayer fails to provide the copyright registration number as required in paragraph (5) of subdivision (d), the credit shall be disallowed and assessed and collected under Section 19051 until the procedures are satisfied.

(g) For purposes of this section, the California Film Commission shall do the following:

(1) On, or after, July 1, 2009, and before July 1, 2014, allocate tax credits to applicants.

(A) Establish a procedure for applicants to file with the commission a written application, on a form jointly prescribed by the commission and the Franchise Tax Board for the allocation of the tax credit. The application shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

(i) The budget for the motion picture production.

(ii) The number of production days.

(iii) A financing plan for the production.

(iv) The diversity of the workforce employed by the applicant, including, but not limited to, the ethnic and racial makeup of the individuals employed by the applicant during the production of the qualified motion picture, to the extent possible.

(v) Any other information deemed relevant by the commission or the Franchise Tax Board.

(B) Establish criteria, consistent with the requirements of this section, for allocating tax credits.

(C) Determine and designate applicants who meet the requirements of this section.

(D) Process and approve, or reject, all applications on a first-come-first-served basis.

(E) Subject to the annual cap established as provided in subdivision (i), allocate an aggregate amount of credits under this section and Section 23685, and allocate any carryover of unallocated credits from prior years.

(2) Certify tax credits allocated to qualified taxpayers.

(A) Establish a verification procedure for the amount of qualified expenditures paid or incurred by the applicant.

(B) Establish audit requirements that must be satisfied before a credit certificate may be issued by the California Film Commission.

(C) Issue a credit certificate to a qualified taxpayer upon completion of the qualified motion picture reflecting the credit amount allocated after qualified expenditures have been verified under this section. The amount of credit shown in the credit certificate shall not exceed the amount of credit allocated to that qualified taxpayer pursuant to this section.

(h) The California Film Commission shall provide the Franchise Tax Board annually with a list of qualified taxpayers and the tax credit amounts allocated to each qualified taxpayer by the California Film Commission. The list shall include the names and taxpayer identification numbers, including taxpayer identification numbers of each partner or shareholder, as applicable, of the qualified taxpayers.

(i) (1) The aggregate amount of credits that may be allocated in any fiscal year pursuant to this section and Section 23686 shall be an amount equal to the sum of all of the following:

(A) One hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) in credits for the 2009–10 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, through and including the 2013–14 fiscal year.

(B) The unused allocation credit amount, if any, for the preceding fiscal year.

(C) The amount of previously allocated credits not certified.

(2) If the amount of credits applied for in any particular fiscal year exceeds the aggregate amount of tax credits authorized to be allocated under this section, such excess shall be treated as having been applied for on the first day of the subsequent fiscal year. However, credits may not be allocated from a fiscal year other than the fiscal year in which the credit was originally applied for or the immediately succeeding fiscal year.

(3) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Film Commission shall set aside up to ten million (\$10,000,000) of tax credits each fiscal year for independent films allocated in accordance with rules and regulations developed pursuant to subdivision (e).

(4) Any act that reduces the amount that may be allocated pursuant to paragraph (1) constitutes a change in state taxes for the purpose of increasing revenues within the meaning of Section 3 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution and may be passed by not less than two-thirds of all Members elected to each of the two houses of the Legislature.

(j) The film commission shall have the authority to allocate tax credits in accordance with this section and in accordance with any regulations prescribed pursuant to subdivision (e) upon adoption.

**SEC. 9.** Section 23685 is added to the Revenue and Taxation Code, to read:

**23685.** (a) (1) For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, there shall be allowed to a qualified taxpayer a credit against the "tax," as defined in Section 23036, in an amount equal to the applicable percentage, as specified in paragraph (4), of the qualified expenditures for the production of a qualified motion picture in California.

(2) The credit shall be allowed for the taxable year in which the California Film Commission issues the credit certificate pursuant to subdivision (g) for the qualified motion picture, and shall be for the applicable percentage of all qualified expenditures paid or incurred by the qualified taxpayer in all taxable years for that qualified motion picture.

(3) The amount of the credit allowed to a qualified taxpayer shall be limited to the amount specified in the credit certificate issued to the qualified taxpayer by the California Film Commission pursuant to subdivision (g).

(4) For purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2), the applicable percentage shall be:

(A) Twenty percent of the qualified expenditures attributable to the production of a qualified motion picture in California.

(B) Twenty-five percent of the qualified expenditures attributable to the production of a qualified motion picture in California where the qualified motion picture is a television series that relocated to California or an independent film.

(b) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Ancillary product" means any article for sale to the public that contains a portion of, or any element of, the qualified motion picture.

(2) "Budget" means an estimate of all expenses paid or incurred during the production period of a qualified motion picture. It shall be the same budget used by the qualified taxpayer and production company for all qualified motion picture purposes.

(3) "Clip use" means a use of any portion of a motion picture, other than the qualified motion picture, used in the qualified motion picture.

(4) “Credit certificate” means the certificate issued by the California Film Commission pursuant to subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (g).

(5) (A) “Employee fringe benefits” means the amount allowable as a deduction under this part to the qualified taxpayer involved in the production of the qualified motion picture, exclusive of any amounts contributed by employees, for any year during the production period with respect to any of the following:

(i) Employer contributions under any pension, profit-sharing, annuity, or similar plan.

(ii) Employer-provided coverage under any accident or health plan for employees.

(iii) The employer’s cost of life or disability insurance provided to employees.

(B) Any amount treated as wages under clause (i) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (18) shall not be taken into account under this paragraph.

(6) “Independent film” means a motion picture with a minimum budget of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) and a maximum budget of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) that is produced by a company that is not publicly traded and publicly traded companies do not own, directly or indirectly, more than 25 percent of the producing company.

(7) “Licensing” means any grant of rights to distribute the qualified motion picture, in whole or in part.

(8) “New use” means any use of a motion picture in a medium other than the medium for which it was initially created.

(9) (A) “Postproduction” means the final activities in a qualified motion picture’s production, including editing, foley recording, automatic dialogue replacement, sound editing, scoring and music editing, beginning and end credits, negative cutting, negative processing and duplication, the addition of sound and visual effects, soundmixing, film-to-tape transfers, encoding, and color correction.

(B) “Postproduction” does not include the manufacture or shipping of release prints.

(10) “Preproduction” means the process of preparation for actual physical production which begins after a qualified motion picture has received a firm agreement of financial commitment, or is greenlit, with, for example, the establishment of a dedicated production office, the hiring of key crew members, and includes, but is not limited to, activities that include location scouting and execution of contracts with vendors of equipment and stage space.

(11) “Principal photography” means the phase of production during which the motion picture is actually shot, as distinguished from preproduction and postproduction.

(12) “Production period” means the period beginning with preproduction and ending upon completion of postproduction.

(13) “Qualified entity” means a personal service corporation as defined in Section 269A(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code, a payroll services corporation, or any entity receiving qualified wages with respect to services performed by a qualified individual.

(14) (A) “Qualified individual” means any individual who performs services during the production period in an activity related to the production of a qualified motion picture.

(B) “Qualified individual” shall not include either of the following:

(i) Any individual related to the qualified taxpayer as described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of Section 51(i)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(ii) Any 5 percent owner, as defined in Section 416(i)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code, of the qualified taxpayer.

(15) (A) “Qualified motion picture” means a motion picture that is produced for distribution to the general public, regardless of medium that is one of the following:

(i) A feature with a minimum production budget of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) and a maximum production budget of seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000).

(ii) A movie of the week or miniseries with a minimum production budget of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

(iii) A new television series produced in California with a minimum production budget of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) licensed for original distribution on basic cable.

(iv) An independent film.

(v) A television series that relocated to California.

(B) To qualify as a “qualified motion picture,” all of the following conditions shall be satisfied:

(i) At least 75 percent of the production days occur wholly in California or 75 percent of the production budget is incurred for payment for services performed within the state and the purchase or rental of property used within the state.

(ii) Production of the qualified motion picture is completed within 30 months from the date on which the qualified taxpayer’s application is approved by the California Film Commission. For purposes of this section, a qualified motion picture is “completed” when the process of postproduction has been finished.



(iii) The copyright for the motion picture is registered with the United States Copyright Office pursuant to Title 17 of the United States Code.

(iv) Principal photography of the qualified motion picture commences after the date on which the application is approved by the California Film Commission, but no later than 180 days after the date of that approval.

(C) For the purposes of subparagraph (A), in computing the total wages paid or incurred for the production of a qualified motion picture, all amounts paid or incurred by all persons or entities that share in the costs of the qualified motion picture shall be aggregated.

(D) “Qualified motion picture” shall not include commercial advertising, music videos, a motion picture produced for private noncommercial use, such as weddings, graduations, or as part of an educational course and made by students, a news program, current events or public events program, talk show, game show, sporting event or activity, awards show, telethon or other production that solicits funds, reality television program, clip-based programming if more than 50 percent of the content is comprised of licensed footage, documentaries, variety programs, daytime dramas, strip shows, one-half hour (air time) episodic television shows, or any production that falls within the recordkeeping requirements of Section 2257 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

(16) “Qualified expenditures” means amounts paid or incurred to purchase or lease tangible personal property used within this state in the production of a qualified motion picture and payments, including qualified wages, for services performed within this state in the production of a qualified motion picture.

(17) (A) “Qualified taxpayer” means a taxpayer who has paid or incurred qualified expenditures and has been issued a credit certificate by the California Film Commission pursuant to subdivision (g).

(B) (i) In the case of any passthrough entity, the determination of whether a taxpayer is a qualified taxpayer under this section shall be made at the entity level and any credit under this section is not allowed to the passthrough entity, but shall be passed through to the partners or shareholders in accordance with applicable provisions of Part 10 (commencing with Section 17001) or Part 11 (commencing with Section 23001). For purposes of this paragraph, “passthrough entity” means any entity taxed as a partnership or “S” corporation.

(ii) In the case of an “S” corporation, the credit allowed under this section shall not be used by an “S” corporation as a credit against a tax imposed under Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 23800) of Part 11 of Division 2.

(18) (A) “Qualified wages” means all of the following:

(i) Any wages required to be reported under Section 13050 of the Unemployment Insurance Code that were paid or incurred by any taxpayer involved in the production of a qualified motion

picture with respect to a qualified individual for services performed on the qualified motion picture production within California.

(ii) The portion of any employee fringe benefits paid or incurred by any taxpayer involved in the production of the qualified motion picture that are properly allocable to qualified wage amounts described in clause (i).

(iii) Any payments made to a qualified entity for services performed in California by qualified individuals within the meaning of paragraph (14).

(iv) Remuneration paid to an independent contractor who is a qualified individual for services performed within California by that qualified individual.

(B) “Qualified wages” shall not include any of the following:

(i) Expenses, including wages, related to new use, reuse, clip use, licensing, secondary markets, or residual compensation, or the creation of any ancillary product, including, but not limited to, a soundtrack album, toy, game, trailer, or teaser.

(ii) Expenses, including wages, paid or incurred with respect to acquisition, development, turnaround, or any rights thereto.

(iii) Expenses, including wages, related to financing, overhead, marketing, promotion, or distribution of a qualified motion picture.

(iv) Expenses, including wages, paid per person per qualified motion picture for writers, directors, music directors, music composers, music supervisors, producers, and performers, other than background actors with no scripted lines.

(19) “Residual compensation” means supplemental compensation paid at the time that a motion picture is exhibited through new use, reuse, clip use, or in secondary markets, as distinguished from payments made during production.

(20) “Reuse” means any use of a qualified motion picture in the same medium for which it was created, following the initial use in that medium.

(21) “Secondary markets” means media in which a qualified motion picture is exhibited following the initial media in which it is exhibited.

(22) “Television series that relocated to California” means a television series, without regard to episode length or initial media exhibition, that filmed all of its prior season or seasons outside of California and for which the taxpayer certifies that the credit provided pursuant to this section is the primary reason for relocating to California.

(c) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (i) of Section 23036, relating to credits attributable to a passthrough business entity, in the case where the credit allowed by this section exceeds the

taxpayer's tax liability computed under this part, a qualified taxpayer may elect to assign any portion of the credit allowed under this section to one or more affiliated corporations for each taxable year in which the credit is allowed. For purposes of this subdivision, "affiliated corporation" has the meaning provided in subdivision (b) of Section 25110, as that section was amended by Chapter 881 of the Statutes of 1993, as of the last day of the taxable year in which the credit is allowed, except that "100 percent" is substituted for "more than 50 percent" wherever it appears in the section, and "voting common stock" is substituted for "voting stock" wherever it appears in the section.

(2) The election provided in paragraph (1):

(A) May be based on any method selected by the qualified taxpayer that originally receives the credit.

(B) Shall be irrevocable for the taxable year the credit is allowed, once made.

(C) May be changed for any subsequent taxable year if the election to make the assignment is expressly shown on each of the returns of qualified taxpayer and a qualified taxpayer's affiliated corporations that assign and receive the credits.

(3) (A) Notwithstanding any other law, a qualified taxpayer, may sell any credit allowed under this section that is attributable to an independent film, as defined in paragraph (6) of subdivision (b), to an unrelated party.

(B) The qualified taxpayer shall report to the Franchise Tax Board prior to the sale of the credit, in the form and manner specified by the Franchise Tax Board, all required information regarding the purchase and sale of the credit, including the social security or other taxpayer identification number of the unrelated party to whom the credit has been sold, the face amount of the credit sold, and the amount of consideration received by the qualified taxpayer for the sale of the credit.

(4) In the case where the credit allowed under this section exceeds the "tax," the excess credit may be carried over to reduce the "tax" in the following taxable year, and succeeding five taxable years, if necessary, until the credit has been exhausted.

(5) A credit shall not be sold pursuant to this subdivision to more than one taxpayer, nor may the credit be resold by the unrelated party to another taxpayer or other party.

(6) A party that has been assigned or acquired tax credits under this paragraph shall be subject to the requirements of this section.

(7) In no event may a qualified taxpayer assign or sell any tax credit to the extent the tax credit allowed by this section is claimed on any tax return of the qualified taxpayer.

(8) In the event that both the taxpayer originally allocated a credit under this section by the California Film Commission and a taxpayer to whom the credit has been sold both claim the

same amount of credit on their tax returns, the Franchise Tax Board may disallow the credit of either taxpayer, so long as the statute of limitations upon assessment remains open.

(9) Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code does not apply to any standard, criterion, procedure, determination, rule, notice, or guideline established or issued by the Franchise Tax Board pursuant to this subdivision.

(d) No credit shall be allowed pursuant to this section unless the qualified taxpayer provides the following to the California Film Commission:

(1) Identification of each qualified individual.

(2) The specific start and end dates of production.

(3) The total wages paid.

(4) The amount of qualified wages paid to each qualified individual.

(5) The copyright registration number, as reflected on the certificate of registration issued under the authority of Section 410 of Title 17 of the United States Code, relating to registration of claim and issuance of certificate. The registration number shall be provided on the return claiming the credit.

(6) The total amounts paid or incurred to purchase or lease tangible personal property used in the production of a qualified motion picture.

(7) Information to substantiate its qualified expenditures.

(8) Information required by the California Film Commission under regulations promulgated pursuant to subdivision (g) necessary to verify the amount of credit claimed.

(e) The California Film Commission may prescribe rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of this section including any rules and regulations necessary to establish procedures, processes, requirements, and rules identified in or required to implement this section. The regulations shall include provisions to set aside a percentage of annual credit allocations for independent films.

(f) If the qualified taxpayer fails to provide the copyright registration number as required in paragraph (5) of subdivision (d), the credit shall be disallowed and assessed and collected under Section 19051 until the procedures are satisfied.

(g) For purposes of this section, the California Film Commission shall do the following:

(1) On or after July 1, 2009, and before July 1, 2014, allocate tax credits to applicants.

(A) Establish a procedure for applicants to file with the commission a written application, on a form jointly prescribed by the commission and the Franchise Tax Board for the allocation of the tax credit. The application shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

(i) The budget for the motion picture production.

(ii) The number of production days.

(iii) A financing plan for the production.

(iv) The diversity of the workforce employed by the applicant, including, but not limited to, the ethnic and racial makeup of the individuals employed by the applicant during the production of the qualified motion picture, to the extent possible.

(v) Any other information deemed relevant by the commission or the Franchise Tax Board.

(B) Establish criteria, consistent with the requirements of this section, for allocating tax credits.

(C) Determine and designate applicants who meet the requirements of this section.

(D) Process and approve, or reject, all applications on a first-come-first-served basis.

(E) Subject to the annual cap established as provided in subdivision (i), allocate an aggregate amount of credits under this section and Section 17053.85, and allocate any carryover of unallocated credits from prior years.

(2) Certify tax credits allocated to qualified taxpayers.

(A) Establish a verification procedure for the amount of qualified expenditures paid or incurred by the applicant.

(B) Establish audit requirements that must be satisfied before a credit certificate maybe issued by the California Film Commission.

(C) Issue a credit certificate to a qualified taxpayer upon completion of the qualified motion picture, reflecting the credit amount allocated after qualified expenditures have been verified under this section. The amount of a credit shown in the credit certificate shall not exceed the amount of credit allocated to that qualified taxpayer pursuant to this section.

(h) The California Film Commission shall provide the Franchise Tax Board and the board annually with a list of qualified taxpayers and the tax credit amounts allocated to each qualified taxpayer by the California Film Commission. The list shall include the names and taxpayer identification numbers, including taxpayer identification numbers of each partner or shareholder, as applicable, of the qualified taxpayer.

(i) (1) The aggregate amount of credits that may be allocated in any fiscal year pursuant to this section and Section 17053.85 shall be an amount equal to the sum of all of the following:

(A) One hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) in credits for the 2009–10 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, through and including the 2013–14 fiscal year.

(B) The unused allocation credit amount, if any, for the preceding fiscal year.

(C) The amount of previously allocated credits not certified.

(2) If the amount of credits applied for in any particular fiscal year exceeds the aggregate amount of tax credits authorized to be allocated for under this section, such excess shall be treated as having been applied for on the first day of the subsequent fiscal year. However, credits may not be allocated from a fiscal year other than the fiscal year in which the credit was originally applied for or the immediately succeeding fiscal year.

(3) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Film Commission shall set aside up to ten million (\$10,000,000) of tax credits each fiscal year for independent films allocated in accordance with rules and regulations developed pursuant to subdivision (e).

(4) Any act that reduces the amount that may be allocated pursuant to paragraph (1) constitutes a change in state taxes for the purpose of increasing revenues within the meaning of Section 3 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution and may be passed by not less than two-thirds of all Members elected to each of the two houses of the Legislature.

(j) The film commission shall have the authority to allocate tax credits in accordance with this section and in accordance with any regulations prescribed pursuant to subdivision (e) upon adoption.

**SEC. 15.** (a) On or before December 31, 2015, the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency shall report to the Legislature on the economic impact of the tax incentives created by Sections 6902.5, 17053.85 and 23685 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, as added by this act. In preparing the report, the agency shall consider, but is not limited to considering, all of the following:

(1) The number and increase or decrease of qualified motion pictures produced in California.

(2) The amount of total qualified wages paid or incurred in California.

(3) The level of employment in the production industry in California.

(b) The agency may consult with the Employment Development Department, the Franchise Tax Board, the State Board of Equalization, representatives of industry and labor organizations, and agencies of local government before completing its report.

**SEC. 16.** This act addresses the fiscal emergency declared by the Governor by proclamation on December 19, 2008, pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 10 of Article IV of the California Constitution.

**SEC. 17.** This act provides for a tax levy within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect.