

SB 907 - Support Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: David O'Ferrall

Position: FAV

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March 15, 2023

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

SB 907 - Maryland Film Office - Entertainment and Film Funding Grant Program - Establishment

SUPPORT

The creation of an Entertainment and Film Funding Grant Program would help create new opportunities for State residents and companies doing work here in Maryland in the Film and Television industries.

Paul Thomas
President

Currently, there are talented people who are getting their start in the film industry who would benefit from this Grant program. The companies that will benefit most are smaller companies based in Maryland that need that additional money to get their projects off the ground or to professionally complete their projects in Post-Production. The funding this bill would create would allow productions eligible for this Grant to redirect some of their funds to larger crews, better equipment, sets and so much more under this program.

Justin Unger
*Vice President
Southern Region*

There are Film and Television programs throughout the Colleges and Universities in Maryland that are training the next generation of filmmakers. This will help create opportunities for those graduates to thrive. The crew and talent here in Maryland have established themselves as amongst the best in the world and this Bill would help add to those ranks. Productions want to hire the majority of their crew locally and this would further the experience the crews need to succeed.

Len Applefeld
*Vice President
Northern Region*

Ellen Popiel
Secretary/Treasurer

This isn't about supporting Corporations or celebrities - This is about supporting men, women, and kin of Maryland who rely upon the Motion Picture and Television industry to support themselves and their families. This is about job creation and job retention. This is about creating opportunities to advance and flourish and grow in Maryland.

David M. O'Ferrall
Business Agent

Senate Bill 907 will allow this industry to grow and create good jobs here in Maryland and we ask that you SUPPORT the Bill with a FAVORABLE REPORT.

David O'Ferrall
Business Agent
Local 487, IATSE

Metropolitan Baltimore
Council
AFL-CIO Unions

Maryland State & DC
AFL-CIO

Metropolitan Washington
Council
AFL-CIO

Virginia State
AFL-CIO

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Position: FWA

STATEMENT FOR HEARING

SB907 Maryland Film Office - Entertainment and Film Funding Grant Program - Establishment

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. For the record, I am Senator Johnny Ray Salling and I would like to ask for your support and consider SB907 for your approval.

Throughout the years, Maryland has been a host to many production companies to film movies and television shows. Most notably are House of Cards, The Wire, The West Wing, St. Elmo's Fire, Patriot Games, and Wedding Crashers.

This bill will give our Governor the option to set aside \$5 million in the budget to assist with the production costs of entertainment and film projects in the State. A maximum of \$200,000 will be used for every qualifying project until the total \$5 million is exhausted.

I have put forth an amendment to change the language of the bill from "shall" to "may" to ensure that this bill is not a mandate for Governor Moore's administration. This bill will give many artists an opportunity to complete their projects and give Maryland an opportunity to be showcased on the world's stage.

I ask you for a favorable vote for this bill

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Position: INFO



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Kevin A. Anderson | Secretary of Commerce
Signe Pringle | Deputy Secretary of Commerce

DATE: March 15, 2023
BILL NO: Senate Bill 907
BILL TITLE: Maryland Film Office – Entertainment and Film Funding Grant Program - Establishment
COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation
POSITION: Statement of Information

Senate Bill 907 establishes the Entertainment and Film Funding Grant program (Program) within the Maryland Film Office which is within the Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce). Through the Program, Commerce would issue grants of up to \$200,000 to assist with the production costs of entertainment and film projects in the State.

Maryland has a long history of film production. We have a strong crew base, a wealth of talent and many support services. We have a variety of locations, and our film office has a strong reputation. The State currently offers the Film Production Activity Tax Credit to award a refundable tax credit of up to 27% of film production costs incurred in the State. The tax credit is capped at \$12M per fiscal year, of which 10% must be reserved annually for Maryland small and independent film entities.

Thirty-five states presently offer incentives to attract film production. Maryland ranks 24th in the amount of incentives available per fiscal year. Few states offer grants for film production, and those that do base the grants on qualifying expenses incurred in the State, where this Program would issue grants in advance of filming to assist with production costs.

Since the inception of the Film Production Activity Tax Credit in 2011, the nineteen productions that have qualified for tax credits have had a combined economic impact in Maryland of well over a billion dollars. During its six seasons in Maryland, House of Cards hired more than 2,000 Maryland residents per season and purchased or rented goods and services from more than 2,000 Maryland businesses per season. Each season averaged \$118 million in economic impact for the State.