

Mid Atlantic Studio Mechanics and Broadcast Technicians

I.A.T.S.E. Local 487

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February 9, 2022

House Ways and Means Committee

HB 432 - Income Tax - Film Production Activity Credit - Alterations

SUPPORT

By increasing the Funding, as this Bill would, HB 432 will continue to bring good jobs and help create new opportunities here in the State of Maryland. Every Production brings an influx of millions of dollars that would not otherwise be spent here. Money that is spent again and again with Maryland companies purchasing goods and services, not just related to a particular project and also by the individual Marylanders who work on and benefit from these productions.

Currently, there is not enough in the program to bring multiple jobs here. Many productions chose to go elsewhere to States with more robust production incentives. Those in our industry, who wish to continue working in their chosen profession, may have to travel away from their homes in order to support their families for 6 to 9 months at a time. When Film or Television production is here thousands of Marylanders are working, earning, and spending money in their communities and receiving health and retirement benefits for their families. Without the funding increase, hundreds of jobs will be lost to States like Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Georgia, and elsewhere.

The crew and talent here in Maryland have established themselves as amongst the best in the world. Productions now hire the majority locally. Any given production can create upwards of 500 jobs for crew and innumerable opportunities for hundreds of local actors. A single production can mean over \$8 million in total wages paid to Maryland residents and over \$2 million in health and retirement benefits and this amount only includes Motion Picture Technicians; this does not include Actors, production staff, or Teamsters.

This isn't about supporting Corporations or celebrities - This is about supporting the working men and women 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 health and retirement benefits for adults and children.

This Program has the best reporting requirements in place of any other Tax Credit- NOT A SINGLE DOLLAR GOES OUT UNTIL A THOROUGH AUDIT OF ALL QUALIFIED MARYLAND EXPENDITURES HAS BEEN COMPLETED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

House Bill 432 will allow this industry to grow and create good jobs here in Maryland and we ask that you SUPPORT the Bill.

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