



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Committee Bill No. 5554

LCO No. 3061

03061HB05554CE_

Referred to Committee on Commerce

Introduced by:

(CE)

AN ACT CONCERNING TAX CREDITS AND INCENTIVES FOR LIVE THEATER AND THE PERFORMING ARTS INDUSTRY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subparagraph (A) of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of
2 section 12-217jj of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes is
3 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
4 *1, 2008, and applicable to income years commencing on or after January 1,*
5 *2008*):

6 (3) (A) "Qualified production" means entertainment content created
7 in whole or in part within the state, including motion pictures;
8 documentaries; live productions of theater, music, dance, opera and
9 other performing arts; long-form, specials, mini-series, series, sound
10 recordings, videos and music videos and interstitials television
11 programming; interactive television; interactive games; videogames;
12 commercials; infomercials; any format of digital media, including an
13 interactive web site, created for distribution or exhibition to the
14 general public; and any trailer, pilot, video teaser or demo created
15 primarily to stimulate the sale, marketing, promotion or exploitation of
16 future investment in either a product or a qualified production via any

17 means and media in any digital media format, film or videotape,
18 provided such program meets all the underlying criteria of a qualified
19 production.

20 Sec. 2. Subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 12-217kk of the
21 2008 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following
22 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2008, and applicable to*
23 *income years commencing on or after January 1, 2008*):

24 (3) "Infrastructure project" means a capital project to provide basic
25 buildings, facilities or installations needed for the functioning of the
26 digital media and motion picture industry, and live performing arts
27 productions in this state.

28 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Office of Workforce
29 Competitiveness, in consultation with the Departments of Education
30 and Higher Education, shall develop a live production training
31 program to support the state's performing arts industry. The program's
32 curriculum shall be designed for individuals seeking a career in the
33 production of live performing arts.

34 (b) The training program for production shall use a three-phased
35 model in accordance with this subsection to create a skilled workforce
36 in the performing arts industry in the state. Such program shall
37 provide training by members of labor organizations and practical
38 experience on live production projects. Courses using the curriculum
39 shall be available at locations in different regions of the state.

40 (1) The first phase course shall be an introduction to the various
41 production departments within the industry: (A) Production
42 management and direction, (B) production office coordination, (C)
43 budget, accounting and payroll, (D) sound, (E) property, (F) set
44 decoration and set dressing, (G) set construction and scenic art, (H)
45 lighting, (I) costume and wardrobe, (J) hair and make-up, and (K)
46 visual effects. The first phase course shall provide an overview of the
47 production of live performing arts.

48 (2) For purposes of the second phase course, a selection process
49 shall be established in which trainees apply for specific department
50 training, and instructors select trainees that are best equipped to
51 achieve success in such departments. After such selection, the first two
52 weeks of the second phase course shall consist of specialized classroom
53 training in the trainees' chosen department. During this time, trainees
54 will learn, in part, by preparing a short live production that will be
55 presented through the collaboration of all of the departments. The
56 second two weeks of the phase two course shall involve a collaboration
57 of the departments in which the departments complete production of a
58 live production. Instructors shall act as advisers to their departments
59 and oversee the work that trainees do but shall not perform work
60 themselves. The second phase course shall be undertaken in
61 conjunction with a university, community or other nonprofessional
62 performing arts group.

63 (3) The third phase course shall be an eight to twelve-week paid
64 mentorship position on a professional production of performing arts.
65 The mentorship program shall be available to residents of this state
66 who, (A) have professional experience in some aspect of the
67 performing arts industry, (B) are graduates of academic programs in
68 such fields, and (C) have successfully completed first and second
69 phase courses of the live production training program. The mentorship
70 program shall be designed for persons who are ready to declare a
71 professional interest in a particular area of performing arts production
72 and have the intention of applying for membership in the appropriate
73 labor organization. Funding for the mentorship program shall be
74 shared on a percentage basis with sponsoring production employers in
75 professional performing arts organizations. The Office of Workforce
76 Competitiveness may provide additional internship programs for
77 individuals and students who desire entry-level experience in the
78 performing arts industry. Funding for such internship positions shall
79 be shared with sponsoring production employers.

80 (c) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall submit a report,

81 in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
 82 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 83 matters relating to commerce, on or before October 1, 2009. Such report
 84 shall include, but not be limited to, the syllabus for the program
 85 outlined in subsection (b) of this section, an evaluation of available
 86 resources for such program, and any recommendations for changes in
 87 the curriculum.

88 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of ____ dollars is appropriated
 89 to the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, from the General Fund,
 90 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for purposes of developing and
 91 implementing the program of education and training described in
 92 section 3 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008, and applicable to income years commencing on or after January 1, 2008</i>	12-217jj(a)(3)(A)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008, and applicable to income years commencing on or after January 1, 2008</i>	12-217kk(a)(3)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To include live productions of performing arts as eligible for production tax credits and infrastructure tax credits, and to establish a workforce development program designed for the live theater and performing arts industry.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. AMANN, 118th Dist.; REP. SHAPIRO, 144th Dist.
 REP. FOX, 146th Dist.

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