



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 5585**

LCO No. 2134

\*02134\_\_\_\_\_CE\_\*

Referred to Committee on Commerce

Introduced by:  
(CE)

**AN ACT CONCERNING DIGITAL AND FILM MEDIA.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-417 of the 2008 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) With respect to digital media and motion picture activities, the  
5 Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, established under  
6 section 10-392, shall have the following powers and duties:

7 (1) To promote the use of Connecticut locations, structures, facilities  
8 and services for the production and postproduction of all digital media  
9 and motion pictures and other media-related products;

10 (2) To provide support services to visiting and in-state production  
11 companies, including assistance to digital media and motion picture  
12 producers in securing permits from state agencies, authorities or  
13 institutions or municipalities or other political subdivisions of the  
14 state;

15 (3) To develop and update a resource library concerning the many

16 possible state sites which are suitable for production;

17 (4) To develop and update a production manual of available digital  
18 media and motion picture production facilities and services in the  
19 state;

20 (5) To conduct and attend trade shows and production workshops  
21 to promote Connecticut locations and facilities;

22 (6) To prepare an explanatory guide showing the impact of relevant  
23 state and municipal tax statutes, regulations and administrative  
24 opinions on typical production activities and to implement the tax  
25 credits provided for in section 12-217jj of the 2008 supplement to the  
26 general statutes, as amended by this act;

27 (7) To formulate and propose guidelines for state agencies for a "one  
28 stop permitting" process for matters including, but not limited to, the  
29 use of state roads and highways, the use of state-owned real or  
30 personal property for production activities and the conduct of  
31 regulated activities, and to hold workshops to assist state agencies in  
32 implementing such process;

33 (8) To formulate and recommend to municipalities model local  
34 ordinances and forms to assist production activities, including, but not  
35 limited to, "one stop permitting" of digital media and motion picture  
36 and other production activity to be conducted in a municipality, and to  
37 hold workshops to assist municipalities in implementing such  
38 ordinances;

39 (9) To accept any funds, gifts, donations, bequests or grants of funds  
40 from private and public sources for the purposes of this section;

41 (10) To request and obtain from any state agency, authority or  
42 institution or any municipality or other political subdivision of the  
43 state such assistance and data as will enable the commission to carry  
44 out the purposes of this section;

45 (11) To assist and promote cooperation among all segments of  
46 management and labor that are engaged in digital media and motion  
47 pictures;

48 (12) To take any other administrative action which may improve the  
49 position of the state's digital media and motion picture production  
50 industries in national and international markets.

51 (b) (1) Beginning June 1, 2008, and monthly thereafter, the  
52 commission shall submit to the joint standing committee of the  
53 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce,  
54 a report on the status of the film production tax credit, the digital  
55 animation production tax credit, and the infrastructure projects tax  
56 credit. Such report shall include information on activities taking place  
57 pursuant to each of such tax credit programs.

58 (2) On or before January 15, 2008, and biennially thereafter, the  
59 commission shall submit to the General Assembly, in accordance with  
60 section 11-4a, a report on the activities of the commission under this  
61 section and the estimated direct and indirect economic impact of all  
62 digital media, motion pictures and related production activity in the  
63 state, during the preceding calendar years. Each such report shall also  
64 include an analysis of the impact on the state of each qualified  
65 production, as defined in section 12-217jj of the 2008 supplement to the  
66 general statutes, as amended by this act.

67 Sec. 2. (NEW) *(Effective July 1, 2008)* To stimulate the growth of film  
68 and digital media employment in the state, the Office of Workforce  
69 Competitiveness shall:

70 (1) Work collaboratively with the Commission on Culture and  
71 Tourism, to improve notification to state residents who are film  
72 industry professionals of digital and media production opportunities  
73 within the state. Said office shall update and maintain an interactive  
74 web site and Internet database of freelance resident film professionals,  
75 and shall work with such commission to improve notification of

76 freelance feature and commercial production opportunities within the  
77 state.

78 (2) Encourage membership in film industry unions by informing  
79 residents about the union membership process, and encouraging  
80 residents to use the application, examination and selection processes of  
81 each union.

82 (3) Organize a month-long Film Industry Training Program with  
83 two weeks of classroom seminars, followed by two weeks of active  
84 experience in the principal arias of feature production. The program  
85 shall be for individuals and students specifically seeking entry-level  
86 freelance work on media projects produced in this state.

87 (4) Administer a mentorship program for residents who (A) have  
88 professional experience in some aspect of the film and digital media  
89 industry, (B) are graduates of relevant college-level programs, or (C)  
90 have completed the Film Industry Training Program. The office shall  
91 design the mentorship program in partnership with sponsoring  
92 production employers and unions. Funding for internship positions  
93 shall be shared with sponsoring production employers.

94 (5) Organize biannual weekend seminars for entry-level personnel,  
95 designed to provide basic orientation to the film industry for  
96 beginners, give a description of freelance job positions available,  
97 conduct exercises in how to relate to production staff, cast and crew,  
98 and provide insight into the long and demanding hours such positions  
99 will require.

100 (6) Provide any necessary support for enhancement of college level  
101 educational programs in the film and digital media industry, and of  
102 further curriculum development for technical and secondary schools,  
103 particularly in the areas of digital media and post-production.

104 (7) Conduct research and study in the following areas: (A) The  
105 barriers to resident businesses that could provide equipment and

106 services to film productions, and devise outreach and education  
107 programs to inform such businesses of opportunities; (B) the most  
108 effective ways to further encourage out-of-state companies to relocate  
109 or establish satellite offices in Connecticut; and (C) the identification of  
110 opportunities across the spectrum of digital media, including  
111 postproduction, animation, gaming technology, special effects and  
112 computer graphics.

113       Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Office of Workforce  
114 Competitiveness, in consultation with the Departments of Education  
115 and Higher Education, shall develop a film industry training program  
116 to support two areas of the state's film industry, film production and  
117 digital media. The program's curriculum shall be designed for  
118 individuals seeking a career in the film industry.

119       (b) The training program for film production shall use a three-  
120 phased model in accordance with this subsection to create a skilled  
121 workforce in the film production industry in the state. Such program  
122 shall provide training by members of labor organizations and practical  
123 experience on motion picture projects. Courses using the curriculum  
124 shall be available at locations in different regions of the state.

125       (1) The first phase course shall be an introduction to the various  
126 production departments within the industry: (A) Production  
127 management and direction, (B) location management, (C) production  
128 office coordination, (D) budget, accounting and payroll, (E) script  
129 supervision, (F) camera, (G) sound, (H) property, (I) set decoration and  
130 set dressing, (J) set construction and scenic art, (K) lighting, (L) grip,  
131 (M) costume and wardrobe, (N) hair and make-up, (O) special effects,  
132 (P) visual effects, (Q) post production, and (R) extras casting. The first  
133 phase course shall provide an overview of motion picture production,  
134 set etiquette and operations, and the various positions on the set, as  
135 well as providing insight into the work of a free-lance production  
136 crewperson.

137       (2) For purposes of the second phase course, a selection process

138 shall be established in which trainees apply for specific department  
139 training, and instructors select trainees that are best equipped to  
140 achieve success in such departments. After such selection, the first two  
141 weeks of the second phase course shall consist of specialized classroom  
142 training in the trainees' chosen department. During this time, trainees  
143 will learn, in part, by preparing a short film that will be produced  
144 through the collaboration of all of the departments. The second two  
145 weeks of the phase two course shall involve a collaboration of the ten  
146 departments in which the departments complete production of a short  
147 film. Once the production of the short film begins, instructors shall act  
148 as advisers to their departments and oversee the work that trainees do  
149 but shall not perform work themselves.

150 (3) The third phase course shall be an eight to twelve-week paid  
151 mentorship position on a feature film. The mentorship program shall  
152 be available to residents of this state who (A) have professional  
153 experience in some aspect of the film and digital media industry, (B)  
154 are graduates of college-level programs in such fields, and (C) have  
155 successfully completed first and second phase courses of the film  
156 industry training program. The mentorship program shall be designed  
157 for persons who are ready to declare a professional interest in a  
158 particular area of film production and have the intention of applying  
159 for membership in the appropriate labor organization. Funding for the  
160 mentorship program shall be shared on a percentage basis with  
161 sponsoring production employers in feature film or digital media. The  
162 Office of Workforce Competitiveness may provide additional  
163 internship programs for individuals and students who desire entry-  
164 level experience in the film and digital media industry. Funding for  
165 such internship positions shall be shared with sponsoring production  
166 employers in feature or digital media production.

167 (c) (1) The training program for the digital media industry shall be  
168 available at middle schools and high schools, including the vocational-  
169 technical high schools, and, based on articulation agreements, at two  
170 and four-year institutions of higher education. The Office of Workforce

171 Competitiveness, in conjunction with the Center for 21st Century Skills  
172 established by the regional educational service center, EDUCATION  
173 CONNECTION, and the Connecticut College of Technology, shall  
174 establish a digital media and movie making course to develop and  
175 enhance academic skills, creative thinking, digital media literacy and  
176 film making skills, while increasing students' knowledge of film  
177 making careers through the completion of a digital film project. The  
178 project shall be comprehensive and standards-based, and shall include  
179 research, story development, script writing, computer-assisted design,  
180 computer animation, digital audio, digital photography and digital  
181 video production. Students shall organize movie production teams  
182 and assume positions on the team to complete their digital film project.

183 (2) For purposes of the digital media training program, the Office of  
184 Workforce Competitiveness shall: (A) Use a research-based and  
185 proven experiential instructional model to deliver digital media and  
186 movie making teaching and learning activities for a culturally and  
187 economically diverse group of students in ten Connecticut high  
188 schools; (B) use a national science foundation-recognized instructional  
189 model as a foundation to develop an online digital media and movie  
190 making curriculum for students in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (C)  
191 utilize the existing Connecticut career choices' online blended learning  
192 environment for students, teachers, film industry professionals and  
193 college faculty to deliver, extend and enhance digital media and movie  
194 making education using a variety of Internet learning technologies; (D)  
195 include professional development for high school teachers in the use of  
196 the course materials with strategies to adapt the curriculum for all  
197 students in all courses; and (E) arrange for students to present their  
198 films at a student film festival to be held as part of the annual  
199 Connecticut Innovations Exposition.

200 (d) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall submit two  
201 reports, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the  
202 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance  
203 of matters relating to commerce and higher education and

204 employment advancement, on or before August 15, 2008, and on or  
205 before March 15, 2009. Such reports shall include, but not be limited to,  
206 the syllabi for the programs outlined in subsections (b) and (c) of this  
207 section, an evaluation of available resources for such programs, and  
208 any recommendations for changes in the curriculum.

209       Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) The Office of Workforce  
210 Competitiveness, in consultation with the Labor Department, the  
211 Departments of Education, Higher Education and Economic and  
212 Community Development, and the Connecticut Commission on  
213 Culture and Tourism, shall establish a program to support the  
214 education and training of a skilled professional workforce for the film  
215 and digital media industries in this state. Such program shall target  
216 individuals who are (1) professionals trained in the feature film  
217 industry; (2) professionals trained in film and video-related media, but  
218 not experienced in feature film production; (3) interested in entry into  
219 the film industry; and (4) students in middle and high school and  
220 students in institutions of higher education.

221       (b) The program established pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
222 section shall: (1) Include resources and information available online;  
223 (2) be designed to develop workforce relationships between film  
224 producers and labor organizations; (3) train state film production  
225 professionals in order to increase the presence of Connecticut film  
226 industry professionals in major feature film productions in the state;  
227 (4) include a seminar course taught by professionals in the feature film  
228 industry to provide (A) information regarding work on feature film  
229 productions, including information regarding the labor organization  
230 application process, and (B) on-set internship opportunities with  
231 industry professionals; (5) provide three-phase training for feature,  
232 infomercial and commercial productions, located in various regions of  
233 the state; (6) provide access to film studio resources; and (7) include  
234 digital media, animation and post-production education and training  
235 for middle and high school students and students at public institutions  
236 of higher education.

237 (c) The Departments of Education and Higher Education shall  
238 jointly develop the curriculum of such program after consultation with  
239 the state's public and independent institutions of higher education and  
240 digital media companies in the state. Such program shall include  
241 digital media internships for students and externships for teachers.

242 (d) The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall report, in  
243 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the  
244 development of such program to the joint standing committees of the  
245 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce  
246 and higher education and employment advancement on or before  
247 October 1, 2008. The report shall include: (1) An evaluation of the  
248 needs and available programs and curricula in place at public  
249 institutions of higher education; (2) a list of existing film production  
250 companies in the state; (3) a list of existing film industry labor  
251 organizations in the state; (4) available paid and unpaid internships;  
252 and (5) available film studio resources.

253 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) There is established a film  
254 industry equipment reserve fund which shall be a separate, nonlapsing  
255 account within the General Fund. The account shall contain moneys  
256 appropriated for purposes of the account and any donations received  
257 for deposit in the account. The Treasurer shall administer the account.  
258 The Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall use moneys in the  
259 account to provide equipment for the training program established  
260 pursuant to section 6 of this act.

261 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of \_\_\_\_ dollars is appropriated  
262 to the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, from the General Fund,  
263 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the purposes of section 4 of  
264 this act.

265 Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of \_\_\_\_ dollars is appropriated  
266 to the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, from the General Fund,  
267 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for purposes of the account  
268 established pursuant to section 5 of this act.

269      Sec. 8. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars is  
270      appropriated to the Commission on Culture and Tourism, from the  
271      General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for organizing  
272      and managing the Connecticut Film Festival of 2009.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-417
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To provide continuing state support for the ongoing development of the film and digital media industries in the state, and to ensure the presence of a trained workforce to support the needs of such industries.

*[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.]*