[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 6070

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 15, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON
District 37 (Bergen)
Assemblyman WILLIAM W. SPEARMAN
District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)
Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI
District 33 (Hudson)
Assemblyman PAUL D. MORIARTY
District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Makes changes to film and digital media content production tax credit program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on December 20, 2021.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/10/2022)

AN ACT concerning gross income and corporation business tax credits for qualified film and digital media content production expenses and amending P.L.2018, c.56.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

- 1. Section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b) is amended to read as follows:
- 1. a. (1) A taxpayer, upon approval of an application to the authority and the director, shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) in an amount equal to 35 percent of the qualified film production expenses of the taxpayer during a privilege period commencing on or after July 1, 2018 but before July 1, 2034, provided that:
- (a) at least 60 percent of the total film production expenses, exclusive of post-production costs, of the taxpayer are incurred for services performed, and goods purchased through vendors authorized to do business, in New Jersey, or the qualified film production expenses of the taxpayer during the privilege period for services performed, and goods purchased, through vendors authorized to do business in New Jersey, exceed \$1,000,000 per production;
- (b) principal photography of the film commences within 180 days from the date of the original application for the tax credit;
- (c) the film includes, when determined to be appropriate by the commission, at no cost to the State, marketing materials promoting this State as a film and entertainment production destination, which materials shall include placement of a "Filmed in New Jersey" or "Produced in New Jersey" statement, or an approved logo approved by the commission, in the end credits of the film;
- (d) the taxpayer submits a tax credit verification report prepared by an independent certified public accountant licensed in this State in accordance with subsection f. of this section; and
- (e) the taxpayer complies with the withholding requirements provided for payments to loan out companies and independent contractors in accordance with subsection g. of this section.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of subsection a. of this section to the contrary, the tax credit allowed pursuant to this subsection against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) shall be in an amount equal to 30 percent of the qualified film production expenses of the taxpayer during a privilege period that are incurred for services performed and tangible personal property purchased for use at a

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted December 13, 2021.

²Assembly floor amendments adopted December 20, 2021.

- 1 sound stage or other location that is located in the State within a 30-
- 2 mile radius of the intersection of Eighth Avenue/Central Park West,
- 3 Broadway, and West 59th Street/Central Park South, New York,
- 4 New York.

- b. (1) A taxpayer, upon approval of an application to the authority and the director, shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) in an amount equal to: [20] 30 percent of the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer during a privilege period commencing on or after July 1, 2018 but before July 1, 2034, provided that:
- (a) at least \$2,000,000 of the total digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer are incurred for services performed, and goods purchased through vendors authorized to do business, in New Jersey;
- (b) at least 50 percent of the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer are for wages and salaries paid to full-time or full-time equivalent employees in New Jersey;
- (c) the taxpayer submits a tax credit verification report prepared by an independent certified public accountant licensed in this State in accordance with subsection f. of this section; and
- (d) the taxpayer complies with the withholding requirements provided for payments to loan out companies and independent contractors in accordance with subsection g. of this section.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of subsection b. of this section to the contrary, the tax credit allowed pursuant to this subsection against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) shall be in an amount equal to [25] 35 percent of the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer during a privilege period that are incurred for services performed and tangible personal property purchased through vendors whose primary place of business is located in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, or Salem County.
- c. No tax credit shall be allowed pursuant to this section for any costs or expenses included in the calculation of any other tax credit or exemption granted pursuant to a claim made on a tax return filed with the director, or included in the calculation of an award of business assistance or incentive, for a period of time that coincides with the privilege period for which a tax credit authorized pursuant to this section is allowed. The order of priority in which the tax credit allowed pursuant to this section and any other tax credits allowed by law may be taken shall be as prescribed by the director. The amount of the tax credit applied under this section against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5), for a privilege period, when taken together with any other payments, credits, deductions, and adjustments allowed by

4

1 law shall not reduce the tax liability of the taxpayer to an amount 2 less than the statutory minimum provided in subsection (e) of 3 section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5). The amount of the tax 4 credit otherwise allowable under this section which cannot be 5 applied for the privilege period due to the limitations of this subsection or under other provisions of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-6 7 1 et seq.) may be carried forward, if necessary, to the seven 8 privilege periods following the privilege period for which the tax 9 credit was allowed.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

d. A taxpayer, with an application for a tax credit provided for in subsection a. or subsection b. of this section, may apply to the authority and the director for a tax credit transfer certificate in lieu of the taxpayer being allowed any amount of the tax credit against the tax liability of the taxpayer. The tax credit transfer certificate, upon receipt thereof by the taxpayer from the authority and the director, may be sold or assigned, in full or in part, to any other taxpayer that may have a tax liability under the "Corporation Business Tax Act (1945)," P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-1 et seq.), or the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., in exchange for private financial assistance to be provided by the purchaser or assignee to the taxpayer that has applied for and been granted the tax credit. The tax credit transfer certificate provided to the taxpayer shall include a statement waiving the taxpayer's right to claim that amount of the tax credit against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) that the taxpayer has elected to sell or assign. The sale or assignment of any amount of a tax credit transfer certificate allowed under this section shall not be exchanged for consideration received by the taxpayer of less than 75 percent of the transferred tax credit amount. Any amount of a tax credit transfer certificate used by a purchaser or assignee against a tax liability under P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-1 et seq.) shall be subject to the same limitations and conditions that apply to the use of a tax credit pursuant to subsection c. of this section. Any amount of a tax credit transfer certificate obtained by a purchaser or assignee under subsection a. or subsection b. of this section may be applied against the purchaser's or assignee's tax liability under N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. and shall be subject to the same limitations and conditions that apply to the use of a credit pursuant to subsections c. and d. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b).

e. (1) The value of tax credits, including tax credits allowed through the granting of tax credit transfer certificates, approved by the director and the authority pursuant to subsection a. of this section and pursuant to subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b) to taxpayers, other than New Jersey studio partners and New Jersey film-lease partners, shall not exceed a cumulative total of \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2019 and in each fiscal year

5

1 thereafter prior to fiscal year 2035 to apply against the tax imposed 2 pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) and the tax 3 imposed pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," 4 N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. In addition to the \$100,000,000 limitation on 5 the value of tax credits approved by the director for New Jersey 6 film-lease partners and the \$100,000,000 limitation on the value of 7 tax credits approved by the director for other taxpayers imposed by 8 this paragraph, the value of tax credits, including tax credits 9 allowed through the granting of tax credit transfer certificates, 10 approved by the director and the authority pursuant to subsection a. 11 of this section and pursuant to subsection a. of section 2 of 12 P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b) to New Jersey studio partners shall not exceed a cumulative total of \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2021 13 14 and in each fiscal year thereafter prior to fiscal year 2034 to apply 15 against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 16 (C.54:10A-5) and the tax imposed pursuant to the "New Jersey 17 Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. Beginning in fiscal 18 year 2025, in addition to the \$100,000,000 made available for New 19 Jersey studio partners pursuant to this paragraph, up to an additional 20 \$350,000,000 may be made available annually, in the discretion of 21 the authority, to New Jersey studio partners for the award of tax 22 credits, including tax credits allowed through the granting of tax 23 credit transfer certificates, pursuant to subsection a. of this section 24 and subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b), 25 from the funds made available pursuant to subparagraph (i) of 26 paragraph (1) of subsection b. of section 98 of P.L.2020, c.156 27 (C.34:1B-362). In addition to the \$100,000,000 limitation on the 28 value of tax credits approved by the director for New Jersey studio 29 partners and the \$100,000,000 limitation on the value of tax credits 30 approved by the director for other taxpayers imposed by this 31 paragraph, the value of tax credits, including tax credits allowed 32 through the granting of tax credit transfer certificates, approved by 33 the director and the authority pursuant to subsection a. of this 34 section and pursuant to subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 35 (C.54A:4-12b) to New Jersey film-lease partners shall not exceed a 36 cumulative total of \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2021 and in each 37 fiscal year thereafter prior to fiscal year 2034 to apply against the 38 tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) 39 and the tax imposed pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax 40 Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. ¹Beginning in fiscal year 2025, in 41 addition to the \$100,000,000 made available for New Jersey film-42 lease partners pursuant to this paragraph, up to an additional 43 \$100,000,000 may be made available annually, in the discretion of 44 the authority, to New Jersey film-lease partners for the award of tax 45 credits, including tax credits allowed through the granting of tax 46 credit transfer certificates, pursuant to subsection a. of this section 47 and subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b),

6

1 from the funds made available pursuant to subparagraph (i) of 2 paragraph (1) of subsection b. of section 98 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-362). Approvals made to New Jersey studio partners and 3 New Jersey film-lease partners shall be subject to award agreements 4 with the authority detailing obligations of the awardee and 5 6 outcomes relating to events of default, including, but not limited to, 7 recapture, forfeiture, and termination. If in any privilege period, 8 beginning following a date determined by the authority, a New 9 Jersey film-lease partner's annual average of qualified film 10 production expenses falls below \$50,000,000, the authority shall reduce by 20 percent any tax credit award for a film for which final 11 documentation ¹[pursuant to N.J.A.C.19:31-21.7(c)] ¹ has been 12 13 submitted, until a privilege period when the annual average of 14 qualified film production expenses has been restored to 15 \$50,000,000. The authority shall establish a non-binding, 16 administrative pre-certification process for potentially eligible 17 projects.

18 19

20

2122

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

3233

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44 45

46 47

If the cumulative total amount of tax credits, and tax credit transfer certificates, allowed to taxpayers for privilege periods or taxable years commencing during a single fiscal year under subsection a. of this section and subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b) exceeds the amount of tax credits available in that fiscal year, then taxpayers who have first applied for and have not been allowed a tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate amount for that reason shall be allowed, in the order in which they have submitted an application, the amount of tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate on the first day of the next succeeding fiscal year in which tax credits and tax credit transfer certificates under subsection a. of this section and subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b) are not in excess of the amount of credits Notwithstanding the limitations set forth in this paragraph, if in any fiscal year the authority receives applications for tax credits under subsection a. of this section and subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12.b) in amounts exceeding the total amount of tax credits available for the fiscal year, then the authority may approve applications, in the order in which such applications were submitted, for excess tax credits during the year in which the application was submitted, provided that the amount of excess credits shall be subtracted from the total amounts allowed for the next following fiscal year in which credits are available, and provided further that the taxpayer shall not claim the excess tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate until the first day of the fiscal year from which the credits were made I If the cumulative total amount of tax credits, and tax credit transfer certificates, allowed to taxpayers for privilege periods or taxable years commencing during a single fiscal year under subsection a. of this section and subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56

1 (C.54A:4-12b) exceeds the amount of tax credits available in that 2 fiscal year, then taxpayers who have first applied for and have not 3 been allowed a tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate amount for that reason shall be allowed, in the order in which they have 4 5 submitted an application, the amount of tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate on the first day of the next succeeding fiscal year 6 7 in which tax credits and tax credit transfer certificates under 8 subsection a. of this section and subsection a. of section 2 of 9 P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b) are not in excess of the amount of

10 <u>credits</u>¹ available.

44

45

46

11 Notwithstanding any provision of 1 this 1 paragraph 1 [(1) of this subsection 1 to the contrary, for any fiscal year in which the 12 amount of tax credits approved ¹to New Jersey studio partners, New 13 14 Jersey film-lease partners, or taxpayers other than New Jersey studio partners and New Jersey film-lease partners¹ pursuant to this 15 paragraph is less than the cumulative total amount of tax credits 16 permitted to be approved 1to each such category, 1 in that fiscal 17 year, the authority shall certify the amount of the remaining tax 18 19 credits available for approval ¹to each such category ¹ in that fiscal year, and shall increase the cumulative total amount of tax credits 20 permitted to be approved for New Jersey studio partners 1, New 21 Jersey film-lease partners, or taxpayers other than New Jersey 22 studio partners and New Jersey film-lease partners¹ in the 23 24 subsequent fiscal year by the certified amount remaining ¹for each such category¹ from the prior fiscal year. The authority shall also 25 certify, for each fiscal year, the amount of tax credits that were 26 27 previously approved, but that the taxpayer is not able to redeem or transfer to another taxpayer under this section, and shall increase 28 29 the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved for New Jersey studio partners ¹, New Jersey film-lease partners, or 30 31 taxpayers other than New Jersey studio partners and New Jersey film-lease partners¹ in the subsequent fiscal year by the amount of 32 tax credits previously approved ¹for each such category ¹, but not 33 subject to redemption or transfer. ¹In each fiscal year in which tax 34 credits remain unapproved for, or unredeemed or not transferred by, 35 36 New Jersey film-lease partners or taxpayers other than New Jersey 37 studio partners and New Jersey film-lease partners, the authority 38 may reallocate some or all of such remaining tax credits in the 39 subsequent fiscal year between the category of New Jersey film-40 lease partners and the category of taxpayers other than New Jersey 41 studio partners and New Jersey film-lease partners in lieu of 42 increasing the tax credits available for the respective category by 43 the amount reallocated.¹

(2) The value of tax credits, including tax credits allowed through the granting of tax credit transfer certificates, approved by the authority and the director pursuant to subsection b. of this

section and pursuant to subsection b. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b) shall not exceed a cumulative total of [\$10,000,000] \$30,000,000 in fiscal year 2019 and in each fiscal year thereafter prior to fiscal year 2035 to apply against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) and the tax imposed

pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-

7 1 et seq.

6

8 If the total amount of tax credits and tax credit transfer 9 certificates allowed to taxpayers for privilege periods or taxable 10 years commencing during a single fiscal year under subsection b. of 11 this section and subsection b. of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 12 (C.54A:4-12.b) exceeds the amount of tax credits available in that 13 year, then taxpayers who have first applied for and have not been 14 allowed a tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate amount for that 15 reason shall be allowed, in the order in which they have submitted 16 an application, the amount of tax credit or tax credit transfer 17 certificate on the first day of the next succeeding fiscal year in 18 which tax credits and tax credit transfer certificates under 19 subsection b. of this section and subsection b. of section 2 of 20 P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12.b) are not in excess of the amount of credits 1 Notwithstanding the limitations set forth in this 21 22 paragraph, if in any fiscal year the authority receives applications 23 for tax credits under subsection b. of this section and subsection b. 24 of section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12.b) in amounts exceeding 25 the total amount of tax credits available for the fiscal year, then the 26 authority may approve applications, in the order in which such 27 applications were submitted, for excess tax credits during the year 28 in which the application was submitted, provided that the amount of 29 excess credits shall be subtracted from the total amounts allowed 30 for the next following fiscal year in which credits are available, and 31 provided further that the taxpayer shall not claim the excess tax 32 credit or tax credit transfer certificate until the first day of the fiscal 33 year from which the credits were made If the total amount of tax 34 credits and tax credit transfer certificates allowed to taxpayers for 35 privilege periods or taxable years commencing during a single fiscal 36 year under subsection b. of this section and subsection b. of section 37 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12.b) exceeds the amount of tax 38 credits available in that year, then taxpayers who have first applied 39 for and have not been allowed a tax credit or tax credit transfer 40 certificate amount for that reason shall be allowed, in the order in 41 which they have submitted an application, the amount of tax credit 42 or tax credit transfer certificate on the first day of the next 43 succeeding fiscal year in which tax credits and tax credit transfer 44 certificates under subsection b. of this section and subsection b. of 45 section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12.b) are not in excess of the 46 amount of credits¹ available.

Q

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

Notwithstanding any provision of this paragraph to the contrary, for any fiscal year in which the amount of tax credits approved pursuant to this paragraph is less than the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved in that fiscal year, the authority shall certify the amount of the remaining tax credits available for approval in that fiscal year, and shall increase the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved in the subsequent fiscal year by the certified amount remaining from the prior fiscal year. The authority shall also certify, for each fiscal year, the amount of tax credits that were previously approved, but that the taxpayer is not able to redeem or transfer to another taxpayer under this section, and shall increase the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved in the subsequent fiscal year by the amount of tax credits previously approved, but not subject to redemption or transfer.

A taxpayer shall submit to the authority and the director a report prepared by an independent certified public accountant licensed in this State to verify the taxpayer's tax credit claim following the completion of the production. The report shall be prepared by the independent certified public accountant pursuant to agreed upon procedures prescribed by the authority and the director, and shall include such information and documentation as shall be determined to be necessary by the authority and the director to substantiate the qualified film production expenses or the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer. A single report with attachments deemed necessary by the authority shall be submitted electronically. Upon receipt of the report, the authority and the director shall review the findings of the independent certified public accountant's report, and shall make a determination as to the qualified film production expenses or the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer. The authority's and the director's review shall include, but shall not be limited to: a review of all non-payroll qualified film production expense items and non-payroll digital media content production expense items over \$20,000; a review of 100 randomly selected non-payroll qualified film production expense items and non-payroll digital media content production expense items that are greater than \$2,500, but less than \$20,000; a review of 100 randomly selected non-payroll qualified film production expense items and nonpayroll digital media content production expense items that are less than \$2,500; a review of the qualified wages for the 15 employees, independent contractors, or loan-out companies with the highest qualified wages; and a review of the qualified wages for 35 randomly selected employees, independent contractors, or loan-out companies with qualified wages other than the 15 employees, independent contractors, or loan-out companies with the highest qualified wages. The taxpayer's qualified film production expenses

1 and digital media content production expenses shall be adjusted 2 based on any discrepancies identified for the reviewed non-payroll 3 qualified film production expense items, non-payroll digital media 4 content production expense items and qualified wages. The 5 taxpayer's qualified film production expenses and digital media 6 content production expenses also shall be adjusted based on the 7 projection of any discrepancies identified based on the review of 8 randomly selected expense items or wages pursuant to this 9 subsection to the extent that the discrepancies exceed one percent of 10 the total reviewed non-payroll qualified film production expense 11 items, non-payroll digital media content production expense items, 12 or qualified wages. The determination shall be provided in writing 13 to the taxpayer, and a copy of the written determination shall be 14 included in the filing of a return that includes a claim for a tax 15 credit allowed pursuant to this section.

A taxpayer shall withhold from each payment to a loan out company or to an independent contractor an amount equal to 6.37 percent of the payment otherwise due. The amounts withheld shall be deemed to be withholding of liability pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., and the taxpayer shall be deemed to have the rights, duties, and responsibilities of an employer pursuant to chapter 7 of Title 54A of the New Jersey Statutes. The director shall allocate the amounts withheld for a taxable year to the accounts of the individuals who are employees of a loan out company in proportion to the employee's payment by the loan out company in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State during the taxable year. A loan out company that reports its payments to employees in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State during a taxable year shall be relieved of its duties and responsibilities as an employer pursuant to chapter 7 of Title 54A of the New Jersey Statutes for the taxable year for any payments relating to the payments on which the taxpayer withheld.

h. As used in this section:

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

"Authority" means the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

"Business assistance or incentive" means "business assistance or incentive" as that term is defined pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2007, c.101 (C.54:50-39).

"Commission" means the Motion Picture and Television Development Commission.

"Digital media content" means any data or information that is produced in digital form, including data or information created in analog form but reformatted in digital form, text, graphics, photographs, animation, sound, and video content. "Digital media

11

1 content" shall not mean content offerings generated by the end user 2 (including postings on electronic bulletin boards and chat rooms); 3 content offerings comprised primarily of local news, events, 4 weather, or local market reports; public service content; electronic 5 commerce platforms (such as retail and wholesale websites); 6 websites or content offerings that contain obscene material as 7 defined pursuant to N.J.S.2C:34-2 and N.J.S.2C:34-3; websites or 8 content that are produced or maintained primarily for private, 9 industrial, corporate, or institutional purposes; or digital media 10 content acquired or licensed by the taxpayer for distribution or 11 incorporation into the taxpayer's digital media content.

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

"Film" means a feature film, a television series, or a television show of 22 minutes or more in length, intended for a national audience, or a television series or a television show of 22 minutes or more in length intended for a national or regional audience, including, but not limited to, a game show, award show, or other gala event filmed and produced at a nonprofit arts and cultural venue receiving State funding. "Film" shall not include a production featuring news, current events, weather, and market reports or public programming, talk show, or sports event, a production that solicits funds, a production containing obscene material as defined under N.J.S.2C:34-2 and N.J.S.2C:34-3, or a production primarily for private, industrial, corporate, or institutional purposes, or a reality show, except if the production company of the reality show owns, leases, or otherwise occupies a production facility of no less than 20,000 square feet of real property for a minimum term of 24 months, and invests no less than \$3,000,000 in such a facility within a designated enterprise zone established pursuant to the "New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zones Act," P.L.1983, c.303 (C.52:27H-60 et al.), or a UEZ-impacted business district established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2001, c.347 (C.52:27H-66.2). "Film" shall not include an award show or other gala event that is not filmed and produced at a nonprofit arts and cultural venue receiving State funding.

"Full-time or full-time equivalent employee" means an individual employed by the taxpayer for consideration for at least 35 hours a week, or who renders any other standard of service generally accepted by custom or practice as full-time or full-time equivalent employment, whose wages are subject to withholding as provided in the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., or who is a partner of a taxpayer, who works for the partnership for at least 35 hours a week, or who renders any other standard of service generally accepted by custom or practice as full-time or full-time equivalent employment, and whose distributive share of income, gain, loss, or deduction, or whose guaranteed payments, or any combination thereof, is subject to the payment of estimated taxes, as provided in the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-

1 et seq. "Full-time or full-time equivalent employee" shall not include an individual who works as an independent contractor or on a consulting basis for the taxpayer.

"Highly compensated individual" means an individual who directly or indirectly receives compensation in excess of \$500,000 for the performance of services used directly in a production. An individual receives compensation indirectly when the taxpayer pays a loan out company that, in turn, pays the individual for the performance of services.

"Incurred in New Jersey" means, for any application submitted after the effective date of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b et al.), pursuant to which a tax credit has not been allowed prior to the effective date of P.L.2021, c.160, service performed within New Jersey and tangible personal property used or consumed in New Jersey. A service is performed in New Jersey to the extent that the individual performing the service is physically located in New Jersey while performing the service. Notwithstanding where the property is delivered or acquired, rented tangible property is used or consumed in New Jersey to the extent that the property is located in New Jersey during its use or consumption and is rented from a vendor authorized to do business in New Jersey or the film production company provides to the authority the vendor's information in a form and manner prescribed by the authority. Purchased tangible property is not used and consumed in New Jersey unless it is purchased from a vendor authorized to do business in New Jersey and is delivered to or acquired within New Jersey; provided, however, that if a production is also located in another jurisdiction, the purchased tangible property is used and consumed in New Jersey if the acquisition and delivery of purchased tangible property is located in either New Jersey or another jurisdiction where the production takes place.

"Independent contractor" means an individual treated as an independent contractor for federal and State tax purposes who is contracted with by the taxpayer for the performance of services used directly in a production.

"Loan out company" means a personal service corporation or other entity that is contracted with by the taxpayer to provide specified individual personnel, such as artists, crew, actors, producers, or directors for the performance of services used directly in a production. "Loan out company" shall not include entities contracted with by the taxpayer to provide goods or ancillary contractor services such as catering, construction, trailers, equipment, or transportation.

"New Jersey film-lease partner" means a taxpayer, including any taxpayer that is a member of a combined group under P.L.2018, c.131 (C.54:10A-4.11), that has made a commitment to lease or acquire <u>all or part of</u> a New Jersey production facility [with].

which leased or acquired space shall have an aggregate square 2 footage of at least 50,000 square feet, [which includes] including a sound stage and production support space, such as production 3 4 offices or a backlot, for a period of five or more successive years

and commits to spend, on a separate-entity basis or in the aggregate with other members of the taxpayer's combined group, an annual

7 average of \$50,000,000 of qualified film production expenses over 8 the period of at least five but not to exceed 10 years.

1

5

6

9

10

11

12 13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22 23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36 37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44 45

46

47

"New Jersey studio partner" means a film production company that has made a commitment to produce films or commercial audiovisual products in New Jersey and has developed, purchased, or executed a 10-year contract to lease a production facility of 250,000 square feet or more ¹[as a "transformative project" pursuant to section 65 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-333)]¹. No more than three film production companies may be designated as a New Jersey studio partner.

"Partnership" means an entity classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

"Post-production costs" means the costs of the phase of production of a film that follows principal photography, in which raw footage is cut and assembled into a finished film with sound synchronization and visual effects.

"Pre-production costs" means the costs of the phase of production of a film that precedes principal photography, in which a detailed schedule and budget for the production is prepared, the script and location is finalized, and contracts with vendors are negotiated.

"Qualified digital media content production expenses" means an expense incurred in New Jersey for the production of digital media "Qualified digital media content production expenses" shall include but not be limited to: wages and salaries of individuals employed in the production of digital media content on which the tax imposed by the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. has been paid or is due; and the costs of computer software and hardware, data processing, visualization technologies, sound synchronization, editing, and the rental of facilities and equipment. Payment made to a loan out company or to an independent contractor shall not be deemed a "qualified digital media content production expense" unless the payment is made in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State and the taxpayer has made the withholding required pursuant to subsection g. of this section. "Qualified digital media content production expenses" shall not include expenses incurred in marketing, promotion, or advertising digital media or other costs not directly related to the production of digital media content. Costs related to the acquisition or licensing of digital media content

by the taxpayer for distribution or incorporation into the taxpayer's digital media content shall not be deemed "qualified digital media content production expenses."

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15 16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

3233

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

"Qualified film production expenses" means an expense incurred in New Jersey for the production of a film including pre-production costs and post-production costs incurred in New Jersey. "Qualified film production expenses" shall include but not be limited to: wages and salaries of individuals employed in the production of a film on which the tax imposed by the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. has been paid or is due; and the costs for tangible personal property used, and services performed, directly and exclusively in the production of a film, such as expenditures for film production facilities, props, makeup, wardrobe, film processing, camera, sound recording, construction, lighting, shooting, editing, and meals. Payment made to a loan out company or to an independent contractor shall not be deemed a "qualified film production expense" unless the payment is made in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State and the taxpayer has made the withholding required pursuant to subsection g. of this section. "Qualified film production expenses" shall not include: expenses incurred in marketing or advertising a film; and payment in excess of \$500,000 to a highly compensated individual for costs for a story, script, or scenario used in the production of a film and wages or salaries or other compensation for writers, directors, including music directors, producers, and performers, other than background actors with no scripted lines, except as follows:

- (1) for a New Jersey studio partner that incurs more than \$15,000,000, but less than \$50,000,000, in qualified film production expenses in the State, an amount, not to exceed \$15,000,000, of the wages or salaries or other compensation for writers, directors, including music directors, producers, and performers, other than background actors with no scripted lines, shall constitute qualified film production expenses;
- (2) for a New Jersey studio partner that incurs \$50,000,000 or more, but less than \$100,000,000, in qualified film production expenses in the State, an amount, not to exceed \$25,000,000, of the wages or salaries or other compensation for writers, directors, including music directors, producers, and performers, other than background actors with no scripted lines, shall constitute qualified film production expenses;
- (3) for a New Jersey studio partner that incurs \$100,000,000 or more, but less than \$150,000,000, in qualified film production expenses in the State, an amount, not to exceed \$40,000,000, of the wages or salaries or other compensation for writers, directors, including music directors, producers, and performers, other than

background actors with no scripted lines, shall constitute qualified
 film production expenses; [and] ¹and ¹

- (4) for a New Jersey studio partner that incurs \$150,000,000 or more in qualified film production expenses in the State, an amount, not to exceed \$60,000,000, of the wages or salaries or other compensation for writers, directors, including music directors, producers, and performers, other than background actors with no scripted lines, shall constitute qualified film production expenses ¹[; and
- (5) for a New Jersey film-lease partner, an amount, not to exceed \$15,000,000, of the payments in excess of \$500,000 to each highly compensated individual for costs for a story, script, or scenario used in the production of a film and wages or salaries or other compensation for writers, directors, including music directors, producers, and performers, other than background actors with no scripted lines, shall constitute qualified film production expenses]¹.

"Total digital media content production expenses" means costs for services performed and property used or consumed in the production of digital media content.

"Total film production expenses" means costs for services performed and tangible personal property used or consumed in the production of a film.

- A business that is not a "taxpayer" as defined and used in the i. "Corporation Business Tax Act (1945)," P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-1 et seq.) and therefore is not directly allowed a credit under this section, but is a business entity that is classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes and is ultimately owned by a business entity that is a "corporation" as defined in subsection (c) of section 4 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-4), or a limited liability company formed under the "Revised Uniform Limited Liability Company Act," P.L.2012, c.50 (C.42:2C-1 et seq.), or qualified to do business in this State as a foreign limited liability company, with one member, and is wholly owned by the business entity that is a "corporation" as defined in subsection (c) of section 4 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-4), but otherwise meets all other requirements of this section, shall be considered an eligible applicant and "taxpayer" as that term is used in this section.
- 38 (cf: P.L.2021, c.160, s.58)

39

3

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

3637

40

- 2. Section 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54A:4-12b) is amended to read as follows:
- 2. a. (1) A taxpayer, upon approval of an application to the authority and the director, shall be allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due for the taxable year under the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., in an amount equal to 35 percent of the qualified film production expenses of the taxpayer

during a taxable year commencing on or after July 1, 2018 but before July 1, 2034, provided that:

- (a) at least 60 percent of the total film production expenses, exclusive of post-production costs, of the taxpayer are incurred for services performed, and goods purchased through vendors authorized to do business, in New Jersey, or the qualified film production expenses of the taxpayer during the taxable year for services performed, and goods purchased, through vendors authorized to do business in New Jersey, exceed \$1,000,000 per production;
- (b) principal photography of the film commences within 180 days from the date of the original application for the tax credit;
- (c) the film includes, when determined to be appropriate by the commission, at no cost to the State, marketing materials promoting this State as a film and entertainment production destination, which materials shall include placement of a "Filmed in New Jersey" or "Produced in New Jersey" statement, or an appropriate logo approved by the commission, in the end credits of the film;
- (d) the taxpayer submits a tax credit verification report prepared by an independent certified public accountant licensed in this State in accordance with subsection g. of this section; and
- (e) the taxpayer complies with the withholding requirements provided for payments to loan out companies and independent contractors in accordance with subsection h. of this section.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of subsection a. of this section to the contrary, the tax credit allowed pursuant to this subsection against the tax otherwise due for the taxable year under the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., shall be in an amount equal to 30 percent of the qualified film production expenses of the taxpayer during a taxable year that are incurred for services performed and tangible personal property purchased for use at a sound stage or other location that is located in the State within a 30-mile radius of the intersection of Eighth Avenue/Central Park West, Broadway, and West 59th Street/Central Park South, New York, New York.
- b. (1) A taxpayer, upon approval of an application to the authority and the director, shall be allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due for the taxable year under the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., in an amount equal to: [20] 30 percent of the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer during a taxable year commencing on or after July 1, 2018 but before July 1, 2034, provided that:
- (a) at least \$2,000,000 of the total digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer are incurred for services performed, and goods purchased through vendors authorized to do business, in New Jersey;

(b) at least 50 percent of the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer are for wages and salaries paid to full-time or full-time equivalent employees in New Jersey;

- (c) the taxpayer submits a tax credit verification report prepared by an independent certified public accountant licensed in this State in accordance with subsection g. of this section; and
- (d) the taxpayer complies with the withholding requirements provided for payments to loan out companies and independent contractors in accordance with subsection h. of this section.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of subsection b. of this section to the contrary, the tax credit allowed pursuant to this subsection against the tax otherwise due for the taxable year under the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., shall be in an amount equal to [25] 35 percent for the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer during a taxable year that are incurred for services performed and tangible personal property purchased through vendors whose primary place of business is located in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, or Salem County.
- c. No tax credit shall be allowed pursuant to this section for any costs or expenses included in the calculation of any other tax credit or exemption granted pursuant to a claim made on a tax return filed with the director, or included in the calculation of an award of business assistance or incentive, for a period of time that coincides with the taxable year for which a tax credit authorized pursuant to this section is allowed. The order of priority in which the tax credit allowed pursuant to this section and any other tax credits allowed by law may be taken shall be as prescribed by the director. The amount of the tax credit applied under this section against the tax otherwise due under the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., for a taxable year, when taken together with any other payments, credits, deductions, and adjustments allowed by law shall not reduce the tax liability of the taxpayer to an amount less than zero. The amount of the tax credit otherwise allowable under this section which cannot be applied for the taxable year due to the limitations of this subsection or under other provisions of N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., may be carried forward, if necessary, to the seven taxable years following the taxable year for which the tax credit was allowed.
- d. (1) A business entity that is classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes shall not be allowed a tax credit pursuant to this section directly, but the amount of tax credit of a taxpayer in respect of a distributive share of entity income, shall be determined by allocating to the taxpayer that proportion of the tax credit acquired by the entity that is equal to the taxpayer's share, whether or not distributed, of the total distributive income or gain

of the entity for its taxable year ending within or with the taxpayer's taxable year.

(2) A New Jersey S Corporation shall not be allowed a tax credit pursuant to this section directly, but the amount of tax credit of a taxpayer in respect of a pro rata share of S Corporation income, shall be determined by allocating to the taxpayer that proportion of the tax credit acquired by the New Jersey S Corporation that is equal to the taxpayer's share, whether or not distributed, of the total pro rata share of S Corporation income of the New Jersey S Corporation for its privilege period ending within or with the taxpayer's taxable year.

A business entity that is not a gross income "taxpayer" as defined and used in the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., and therefore is not directly allowed a credit under this section, but otherwise meets all the other requirements of this section, shall be considered an eligible applicant and "taxpayer" as that term is used in this section, and the application of an otherwise allowed credit amount shall be distributed to appropriate gross income taxpayers pursuant to the other requirements of this subsection.

e. A taxpayer, with an application for a tax credit provided for in subsection a. or subsection b. of this section, may apply to the authority and the director for a tax credit transfer certificate in lieu of the taxpayer being allowed any amount of the tax credit against the tax liability of the taxpayer. The tax credit transfer certificate, upon receipt thereof by the taxpayer from the authority and the director, may be sold or assigned, in full or in part, to any other taxpayer that may have a tax liability under the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., or the "Corporation Business Tax Act (1945)," P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-1 et seq.), in exchange for private financial assistance to be provided by the purchaser or assignee to the taxpayer that has applied for and been granted the tax credit. The tax credit transfer certificate provided to the taxpayer shall include a statement waiving the taxpayer's right to claim that amount of the tax credit against the tax imposed pursuant to N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. that the taxpayer has elected to sell or assign. The sale or assignment of any amount of a tax credit transfer certificate allowed under this section shall not be exchanged for consideration received by the taxpayer of less than 75 percent of the transferred tax credit amount. Any amount of a tax credit transfer certificate used by a purchaser or assignee against a tax liability under N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. shall be subject to the same limitations and conditions that apply to the use of a tax credit pursuant to subsections c. and d. of this section. Any amount of a tax credit transfer certificate obtained by a purchaser or assignee under subsection e. of this section may be applied against the purchaser's or assignee's tax liability under P.L.1945, c.162

(C.54:10A-1 et seq.) and shall be subject to the same limitations and conditions that apply to the use of a credit pursuant to subsection c. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b).

1

2

3

4 (1) The value of tax credits, including tax credits allowed 5 through the granting of tax credit transfer certificates, approved by 6 the director and the authority pursuant to subsection a. of this 7 section and pursuant to subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 8 (C.54:10A-5.39b) to taxpayers, other than New Jersey studio 9 partners and New Jersey film-lease partners, shall not exceed a 10 cumulative total of \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2019 and in each 11 fiscal year thereafter prior to fiscal year 2035 to apply against the 12 tax imposed pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," 13 N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., and pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 14 (C.54:10A-5). In addition to the \$100,000,000 limitation on the 15 value of tax credits approved by the director for New Jersey film-16 lease partners and the \$100,000,000 limitation on the value of tax 17 credits approved by the director for other taxpayers imposed by this 18 paragraph, the value of tax credits, including tax credits allowed 19 through the granting of tax credit transfer certificates, approved by 20 the director and the authority pursuant to subsection a. of this 21 section and pursuant to subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 22 (C.54:10A-5.39b) to New Jersey studio partners shall not exceed a 23 cumulative total of \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2021 and in each 24 fiscal year thereafter prior to fiscal year 2034 to apply against the 25 tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) 26 and the tax imposed pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax 27 Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. Beginning in fiscal year 2025, in 28 addition to the \$100,000,000 made available for New Jersey studio 29 partners pursuant to this paragraph, up to an additional 30 \$350,000,000 may be made available annually, in the discretion of 31 the authority, to New Jersey studio partners for the award of tax 32 credits, including tax credits allowed through the granting of tax 33 credit transfer certificates, pursuant to subsection a. of this section 34 and subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b), 35 from the funds made available pursuant to subparagraph (i) of 36 paragraph (1) of subsection b. of section 98 of P.L.2020, c.156 37 (C.34:1B-362). In addition to the \$100,000,000 limitation on the 38 value of tax credits approved by the director for New Jersey studio 39 partners and the \$100,000,000 limitation on the value of tax credits 40 approved by the director for other taxpayers imposed by this 41 paragraph, the value of tax credits, including tax credits allowed 42 through the granting of tax credit transfer certificates, approved by 43 the director and the authority pursuant to subsection a. of this 44 section and pursuant to subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 45 (C.54:10A-5.39b) to New Jersey film-lease partners shall not 46 exceed a cumulative total of \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2021 and 47 in each fiscal year thereafter prior to fiscal year 2034 to apply

20

1 against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 2 (C.54:10A-5) and the tax imposed pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. ¹Beginning in fiscal 3 4 year 2025, in addition to the \$100,000,000 made available for New 5 Jersey film-lease partners pursuant to this paragraph, up to an 6 additional \$100,000,000 may be made available annually, in the 7 discretion of the authority, to New Jersey film-lease partners for the 8 award of tax credits, including tax credits allowed through the 9 granting of tax credit transfer certificates, pursuant to subsection a. 10 of this section and subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b), from the funds made available pursuant to 11 12 subparagraph (i) of paragraph (1) of subsection b. of section 98 of <u>P.L.2020</u>, c.156 (C.34:1B-362). Approvals made to New Jersey 13 studio partners and New Jersey film-lease partners shall be subject 14 15 to award agreements with the authority detailing obligations of the 16 awardee and outcomes relating to events of default, including, but 17 not limited to, recapture, forfeiture, and termination. If in any 18 taxable year, beginning following a date determined by the 19 authority, a New Jersey film-lease partner's annual average of 20 qualified film production expenses falls below \$50,000,000, the 21 authority shall reduce by 20 percent any tax credit award for a film 22 for which final documentation ¹[pursuant to N.J.A.C.19:31-21.7(c)] has been submitted, until a taxable year when the annual 23 24 average of qualified film production expenses has been restored to 25 \$50,000,000. The authority shall establish a non-binding, 26 administrative pre-certification process for potentially eligible 27 projects. 28

If the cumulative total amount of tax credits, and tax credit transfer certificates, allowed to taxpayers for taxable years or privilege periods commencing during a single fiscal year under subsection a. of this section and subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b) exceeds the amount of tax credits available in that fiscal year, then taxpayers who have first applied for and have not been allowed a tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate amount for that reason shall be allowed, in the order in which they have submitted an application, the amount of tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate on the first day of the next succeeding fiscal year in which tax credits and tax credit transfer certificates under subsection a. of this section and subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b) are not in excess of the amount of credits 1 Notwithstanding the limitations set forth in this paragraph, if in any fiscal year the authority receives applications for tax credits under subsection a. of this section and subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b) in amounts exceeding the total amount of tax credits available for the fiscal year, then the authority may approve applications, in the order in which such applications were submitted, for excess tax credits

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

21

1 during the year in which the application was submitted, provided 2 that the amount of excess credits shall be subtracted from the total 3 amounts allowed for the next following fiscal year in which credits 4 are available, and provided further that the taxpayer shall not claim 5 the excess tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate until the first 6 day of the fiscal year from which the credits were made I If the 7 cumulative total amount of tax credits, and tax credit transfer 8 certificates, allowed to taxpayers for taxable years or privilege 9 periods commencing during a single fiscal year under subsection a. 10 of this section and subsection a. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b) exceeds the amount of tax credits available in 11 12 that fiscal year, then taxpayers who have first applied for and have 13 not been allowed a tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate 14 amount for that reason shall be allowed, in the order in which they 15 have submitted an application, the amount of tax credit or tax credit 16 transfer certificate on the first day of the next succeeding fiscal year in which tax credits and tax credit transfer certificates under 17 18 subsection a. of this section and subsection a. of section 1 of 19 P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b) are not in excess of the amount of <u>credits</u>¹ available. 20

2122

2324

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

3435

36

3738

39

40

41

42

43 44

45

46

Notwithstanding any provision of 1 this 1 paragraph 1 [(1) of this subsection 1 to the contrary, for any fiscal year in which the amount of tax credits approved ¹to New Jersey studio partners, New Jersey film-lease partners, or taxpayers other than New Jersey studio partners and New Jersey film-lease partners¹ pursuant to this paragraph is less than the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved ¹to each such category ¹ in that fiscal year, the authority shall certify the amount of the remaining tax credits available for approval 1 to each such category 1 in that fiscal year, and shall increase the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved for New Jersey studio partners 1, New Jersey film-lease partners, or taxpayers other than New Jersey studio partners and New Jersey film-lease partners¹ in the subsequent fiscal year by the certified amount remaining from the prior fiscal year. The authority shall also certify, for each fiscal year, the amount of tax credits that were previously approved, but that the taxpayer is not able to redeem or transfer to another taxpayer under this section, and shall increase the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved for New Jersey studio partners ¹, New Jersey film-lease partners, or taxpayers other than New Jersey studio partners and New Jersey film-lease <u>partners</u>¹ in the subsequent fiscal year by the amount of tax credits previously approved ¹for each such category ¹, but not subject to redemption or transfer. ¹In each fiscal year in which tax credits remain unapproved for, or unredeemed or not transferred by, New Jersey film-lease partners or taxpayers other than New Jersey studio

partners and New Jersey film-lease partners, the authority may 2 reallocate some or all of such remaining tax credits in the 3 subsequent fiscal year between the category of New Jersey film-4 lease partners and the category of taxpayers other than New Jersey

5 studio partners and New Jersey film-lease partners in lieu of

6 increasing the tax credits available for the respective category by

7 the amount reallocated.¹

1

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21 22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31 32

33

34

35

36 37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46 47

(2) The value of tax credits, including tax credits allowed through the granting of tax credit transfer certificates, approved by the authority and the director pursuant to subsection b. of this section and pursuant to subsection b. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b) shall not exceed a cumulative total of [\$10,000,000] \$30,000,000 in fiscal year 2019 and in each fiscal year thereafter prior to fiscal year 2035 to apply against the tax imposed pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. and the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5).

If the total amount of tax credits and tax credit transfer certificates allowed to taxpayers for taxable years or privilege periods commencing during a single fiscal year under subsection b. of this section and subsection b. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b) exceeds the amount of tax credits available in that year, then taxpayers who have first applied for and have not been allowed a tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate amount for that reason shall be allowed, in the order in which they have submitted an application, the amount of tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate on the first day of the next succeeding fiscal year in which tax credits and tax credit transfer certificates under subsection b. of this section and subsection b. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b) are not in excess of the amount of credits 1 Notwithstanding the limitations set forth in this paragraph, if in any fiscal year the authority receives applications for tax credits under subsection b. of this section and subsection b. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b) in amounts exceeding the total amount of tax credits available for the fiscal year, then the authority may approve applications, in the order in which such applications were submitted, for excess tax credits during the year in which the application was submitted, provided that the amount of excess credits shall be subtracted from the total amounts allowed for the next following fiscal year in which credits are available, and provided further that the taxpayer shall not claim the excess tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate until the first day of the fiscal year from which the credits were made I If the total amount of tax credits and tax credit transfer certificates allowed to taxpayers for taxable years or privilege periods commencing during a single fiscal year under subsection b. of this section and subsection b. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b)

1 exceeds the amount of tax credits available in that year, then 2 taxpayers who have first applied for and have not been allowed a 3 tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate amount for that reason shall be allowed, in the order in which they have submitted an 4 5 application, the amount of tax credit or tax credit transfer certificate 6 on the first day of the next succeeding fiscal year in which tax 7 credits and tax credit transfer certificates under subsection b. of this 8 section and subsection b. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-9 5.39b) are not in excess of the amount of credits available.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28 29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46 47 Notwithstanding any provision of this paragraph to the contrary, for any fiscal year in which the amount of tax credits approved pursuant to this paragraph is less than the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved in that fiscal year, the authority shall certify the amount of the remaining tax credits available for approval in that fiscal year, and shall increase the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved in the subsequent fiscal year by the certified amount remaining from the prior fiscal year. The authority shall also certify, for each fiscal year, the amount of tax credits that were previously approved, but that the taxpayer is not able to redeem or transfer to another taxpayer under this section, and shall increase the cumulative total amount of tax credits permitted to be approved in the subsequent fiscal year by the amount of tax credits previously approved, but not subject to redemption or transfer.

g. A taxpayer shall submit to the authority and the director a report prepared by an independent certified public accountant licensed in this State to verify the taxpayer's tax credit claim following the completion of the production. The report shall be prepared by the independent certified public accountant pursuant to agreed upon procedures prescribed by the authority and the director, and shall include such information and documentation as shall be determined to be necessary by the authority and the director to substantiate the qualified film production expenses or the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer. A single report with attachments deemed necessary by the authority shall be submitted electronically. Upon receipt of the report, the authority and the director shall review the findings of the independent certified public accountant's report, and shall make a determination as to the qualified film production expenses or the qualified digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer. The authority's and the director's review shall include, but shall not be limited to: a review of all non-payroll qualified film production expense items and non-payroll digital media content production expense items over \$20,000; a review of 100 randomly selected non-payroll qualified film production expense items and non-payroll digital media content production expense items that are greater than \$2,500, but less than \$20,000; a review of 100 randomly selected

1 non-payroll qualified film production expense items and non-2 payroll digital media content production expense items that are less 3 than \$2,500; a review of the qualified wages for the 15 employees, 4 independent contractors, or loan-out companies with the highest 5 qualified wages; and a review of the qualified wages for 35 6 randomly selected employees, independent contractors, or loan-out 7 companies with qualified wages other than the 15 employees, 8 independent contractors, or loan-out companies with the highest 9 qualified wages. The taxpayer's qualified film production expenses 10 and digital media content production expenses shall be adjusted 11 based on any discrepancies identified for the reviewed non-payroll 12 qualified film production expense items, non-payroll digital media 13 content production expense items and qualified wages. 14 taxpayer's qualified film production expenses and digital media 15 content production expenses also shall be adjusted based on the 16 projection of any discrepancies identified based on the review of 17 randomly selected expense items or wages pursuant to this 18 subsection to the extent that the discrepancies exceed one percent of 19 the total reviewed non-payroll qualified film production expense 20 items, non-payroll digital media content production expense items, 21 or qualified wages. The determination shall be provided in writing 22 to the taxpayer, and a copy of the written determination shall be 23 included in the filing of a return that includes a claim for a tax 24 credit allowed pursuant to this section. 25

h. A taxpayer shall withhold from each payment to a loan out company or to an independent contractor an amount equal to 6.37 percent of the payment otherwise due. The amounts withheld shall be deemed to be withholding of liability pursuant to the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., and the taxpayer shall be deemed to have the rights, duties, and responsibilities of an employer pursuant to chapter 7 of Title 54A of the New Jersey Statutes. The director shall allocate the amounts withheld for a taxable year to the accounts of the individuals who are employees of a loan out company in proportion to the employee's payment by the loan out company in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State during the taxable year. A loan out company that reports its payments to employees in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State during a taxable year shall be relieved of its duties and responsibilities as an employer pursuant to chapter 7 of Title 54A of the New Jersey Statutes for the taxable year for any payments relating to the payments on which the taxpayer withheld.

i. As used in this section:

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46 "Authority" means the New Jersey Economic Development 47 Authority. "Business assistance or incentive" means "business assistance or incentive" as that term is defined pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2007, c.101 (C.54:50-39).

"Commission" means the Motion Picture and Television Development Commission.

"Digital media content" means any data or information that is produced in digital form, including data or information created in analog form but reformatted in digital form, text, graphics, photographs, animation, sound, and video content. "Digital media content" shall not mean content offerings generated by the end user (including postings on electronic bulletin boards and chat rooms); content offerings comprised primarily of local news, events, weather or local market reports; public service content; electronic commerce platforms (such as retail and wholesale websites); websites or content offerings that contain obscene material as defined pursuant to N.J.S.2C:34-2 and N.J.S.2C:34-3; websites or content that are produced or maintained primarily for private, industrial, corporate, or institutional purposes; or digital media content acquired or licensed by the taxpayer for distribution or incorporation into the taxpayer's digital media content.

"Film" means a feature film, a television series, or a television show of 22 minutes or more in length, intended for a national audience, or a television series or a television show of 22 minutes or more in length intended for a national or regional audience, including, but not limited to, a game show, award show, or other gala event filmed and produced at a nonprofit arts and cultural venue receiving State funding. "Film" shall not include a production featuring news, current events, weather, and market reports or public programming, talk show, sports event, or reality show, a production that solicits funds, a production containing obscene material as defined under N.J.S.2C:34-2 and N.J.S.2C:34-3, or a production primarily for private, industrial, corporate, or institutional purposes. "Film" shall not include an award show or other gala event that is not filmed and produced at a nonprofit arts and cultural venue receiving State funding.

"Full-time or full-time equivalent employee" means an individual employed by the taxpayer for consideration for at least 35 hours a week, or who renders any other standard of service generally accepted by custom or practice as full-time or full-time equivalent employment, whose wages are subject to withholding as provided in the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq., or who is a partner of a taxpayer, who works for the partnership for at least 35 hours a week, or who renders any other standard of service generally accepted by custom or practice as full-time or full-time equivalent employment, and whose distributive share of income, gain, loss, or deduction, or whose guaranteed payments, or any combination thereof, is subject to the payment of estimated taxes, as

provided in the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:11 et seq. "Full-time or full-time equivalent employee" shall not include an individual who works as an independent contractor or on a consulting basis for the taxpayer.

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

2223

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

3233

34

35

3637

38

39

40

41

42

43 44

45

46

47

"Highly compensated individual" means an individual who directly or indirectly receives compensation in excess of \$500,000 for the performance of services used directly in a production. An individual receives compensation indirectly when the taxpayer pays a loan out company that, in turn, pays the individual for the performance of services.

"Incurred in New Jersey" means, for any application submitted after the effective date of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b et al.), pursuant to which a tax credit has not been allowed prior to the effective date of P.L.2021, c.160, service performed within New Jersey and tangible personal property used or consumed in New Jersey. A service is performed in New Jersey to the extent that the individual performing the service is physically located in New Jersey while performing the service. Notwithstanding where the property is delivered or acquired, rented tangible property is used or consumed in New Jersey to the extent that the property is located in New Jersey during its use or consumption and is rented from a vendor authorized to do business in New Jersey or the film production company provides to the authority the vendor's information in a form and manner prescribed by the authority. Purchased tangible property is not used and consumed in New Jersey unless it is purchased from a vendor authorized to do business in New Jersey and is delivered to or acquired within New Jersey; provided, however, that if a production is also located in another jurisdiction, the purchased tangible property is used and consumed in New Jersey if the acquisition and delivery of purchased tangible property is located in either New Jersey or another jurisdiction where the production takes place.

"Independent contractor" means an individual treated as an independent contractor for federal and State tax purposes who is contracted with by the taxpayer for the performance of services used directly in a production.

"Loan out company" means a personal service corporation or other entity that is contracted with by the taxpayer to provide specified individual personnel, such as artists, crew, actors, producers, or directors for the performance of services used directly in a production. "Loan out company" shall not include entities contracted with by the taxpayer to provide goods or ancillary contractor services such as catering, construction, trailers, equipment, or transportation.

"New Jersey film-lease partner" means a taxpayer, including any taxpayer that is a member of a combined group under P.L.2018, c.131 (C:54:10A-4.11), that has made a commitment to lease or

acquire <u>all or part of</u> a New Jersey production facility [with], which leased or acquired space shall have an aggregate square footage of at least 50,000 square feet, [which includes] including a

4 sound stage and production support space, such as production

5 offices or a backlot, for a period of five or more successive years

and commits to spend, on a separate-entity basis or in the aggregate with other members of the taxpayer's combined group, an annual

8 average of \$50,000,000 of qualified film production expenses over 9 the period of at least five but not to exceed 10 years.

6

7

10

11

12

13

14

15 16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

3637

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

"New Jersey studio partner" means a film production company that has made a commitment to produce films or commercial audiovisual products in New Jersey and has developed, purchased, or executed a 10-year contract to lease a production facility of 250,000 square feet or more ¹[as a "transformative project" pursuant to section 65 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-333)]. No more than three film production companies may be designated as a New Jersey studio partner.

"Partnership" means an entity classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

"Post-production costs" means the costs of the phase of production of a film that follows principal photography, in which raw footage is cut and assembled into a finished film with sound synchronization and visual effects.

"Pre-production costs" means the costs of the phase of production of a film that precedes principal photography, in which a detailed schedule and budget for the production is prepared, the script and location is finalized, and contracts with vendors are negotiated.

"Qualified digital media content production expenses" means an expense incurred in New Jersey for the production of digital media "Qualified digital media content production expenses" shall include but not be limited to: wages and salaries of individuals employed in the production of digital media content on which the tax imposed by the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. has been paid or is due; and the costs of computer software and hardware, data processing, visualization technologies, sound synchronization, editing, and the rental of facilities and equipment. Payment made to a loan out company or to an independent contractor shall not be deemed a "qualified digital media content production expense" unless the payment is made in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State and the taxpayer has made the withholding required pursuant to subsection h. of this section. "Qualified digital media content production expenses" shall not include expenses incurred in marketing, promotion, or advertising digital media or other costs not directly related to the production of digital media content.

Costs related to the acquisition or licensing of digital media content by the taxpayer for distribution or incorporation into the taxpayer's digital media content shall not be deemed "qualified digital media content production expenses."

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

2223

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

"Qualified film production expenses" means an expense incurred in New Jersey for the production of a film including pre-production costs and post-production costs incurred in New Jersey. "Qualified film production expenses" shall include but not be limited to: wages and salaries of individuals employed in the production of a film on which the tax imposed by the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq. has been paid or is due; and the costs for tangible personal property used, and services performed, directly and exclusively in the production of a film, such as expenditures for film production facilities, props, makeup, wardrobe, film processing, camera, sound recording, construction, lighting, shooting, editing, and meals. Payment made to a loan out company or to an independent contractor shall not be deemed a "qualified film production expense" unless the payment is made in connection with a trade, profession, or occupation carried on in this State or for the rendition of personal services performed in this State and the taxpayer has made the withholding required by subsection h. of this section. "Qualified film production expenses" shall not include: expenses incurred in marketing or advertising a film; and payment in excess of \$500,000 to a highly compensated individual for costs for a story, script, or scenario used in the production of a film and wages or salaries or other compensation for writers, directors, including music directors, producers, and performers, other than background actors with no scripted lines, except as follows:

- (1) for a New Jersey studio partner that incurs more than \$15,000,000, but less than \$50,000,000, in qualified film production expenses in the State, an amount, not to exceed \$15,000,000, of the wages or salaries or other compensation for writers, directors, including music directors, producers, and performers, other than background actors with no scripted lines, shall constitute qualified film production expenses;
- (2) for a New Jersey studio partner that incurs \$50,000,000 or more, but less than \$100,000,000, in qualified film production expenses in the State, an amount, not to exceed \$25,000,000, of the wages or salaries or other compensation for writers, directors, including music directors, producers, and performers, other than background actors with no scripted lines, shall constitute qualified film production expenses;
- (3) for a New Jersey studio partner that incurs \$100,000,000 or more, but less than \$150,000,000, in qualified film production expenses in the State, an amount, not to exceed \$40,000,000, of the wages or salaries or other compensation for writers, directors,

including music directors, producers, and performers, other than background actors with no scripted lines, shall constitute qualified film production expenses; [and] ¹and ¹

- (4) for a New Jersey studio partner that incurs \$150,000,000 or more in qualified film production expenses in the State, an amount, not to exceed \$60,000,000, of the wages or salaries or other compensation for writers, directors, including music directors, producers, and performers, other than background actors with no scripted lines, shall constitute qualified film production expenses 1; and
- (5) for a New Jersey film-lease partner, an amount, not to exceed \$15,000,000, of the payments in excess of \$500,000 to each highly compensated individual for costs for a story, script, or scenario used in the production of a film and wages or salaries or other compensation for writers, directors, including music directors, producers, and performers, other than background actors with no scripted lines, shall constitute qualified film production expenses]¹.

"Total digital media content production expenses" means costs for services performed and property used or consumed in the production of digital media content.

"Total film production expenses" means costs for services performed and tangible personal property used or consumed in the production of a film.

(cf: P.L.2021, c.160, s.59)

- ¹3. Section 4 of P.L.2018, c.56 is amended to read as follows:
- 4. <u>a.</u> A taxpayer, upon approval of an application to the authority and the director, shall be allowed a credit against the tax imposed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1945, c.162 (C.54:10A-5) <u>or under the "New Jersey Gross Income Tax Act," N.J.S.54A:1-1 et seq.</u> in an amount equal to 2 percent of the qualified film or digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer during a privilege period <u>or taxable year</u> commencing on or after July 1, 2018 but before July 1, [2028] 2034, provided that:
- **[**a.**]** (1) the application is accompanied by a diversity plan outlining specific goals, which may include advertising and recruitment actions, for hiring minority persons and women;
- **[**b.**]** (2) the director and the authority have approved the plan as meeting the requirements established by the director and the authority; and
- **[**c.**]** (3) the director and the authority have verified that the applicant has met or made good faith efforts in achieving those goals.
- b. The amount of a tax credit allowed pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall increase to four percent of the qualified film or digital media content production expenses of the taxpayer if the diversity plan, in addition to meeting the requirements of subsection a. of this section, outlines specific goals that include hiring persons as

- 1 ²[credited]² performers in the film or digital media production who
- 2 ²are²: (i) ²[are]² members of ethnic minority groups that are
- 3 <u>underrepresented in film or digital media productions; (ii)</u> ²[have
- 4 been if credited, residents of New Jersey for at least 12 months
- 5 preceding the beginning of filming or recording, and if uncredited,²
- 6 residents of any municipality in New Jersey in which filming occurs as
- 7 part of the production for at least 12 months preceding the beginning
- 8 of filming or recording at that location, or any surrounding
- 9 <u>municipality; and (iii)</u> ² [are] ² <u>members of a bona fide labor union</u> 10 representing film and television performers.
 - <u>c.</u> The director and the authority shall adopt any rules necessary to implement this provision.
 - <u>d.</u> The application shall indicate whether the applicant intends to participate in training, education, and recruitment programs that are organized in cooperation with State colleges and universities, labor organizations, and the motion picture industry and are designed to promote and encourage the training and hiring of New Jersey residents who represent the diversity of the State population.¹
- 19 (cf: P.L.2019, c.506, s.3)

20 21

22

23

11 12

13

14

1516

17

- ¹4. Section 98 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-362) is amended to read as follows:
- read as follows:

 98. a. The combined value of all tax credits awarded under the
- 24 "Historic Property Reinvestment Act," sections 1 through 8 of
- P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-269 through C.34:1B-276); the "Brownfield Redevelopment Incentive Program Act," sections 9
- 27 through 19 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-277 through C.34:1B-287);
- the "New Jersey Innovation Evergreen Act," sections 20 through 34
- 29 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-288 through C.34:1B-302); the "Food
- 30 Desert Relief Act," sections 35 through 42 of P.L.2020, c.156
- 31 (C.34:1B-303 through C.34:1B-310); the "New Jersey Community-
- 32 Anchored Development Act," sections 43 through 53 of P.L.2020,
- 33 c.156 (C.34:1B-311 through C.34:1B-321); the "New Jersey Aspire
- 34 Program Act," sections 54 through 67 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-
- 35 322 through C.34:1B-335); the "Emerge Program Act," sections 68
- 36 through 81 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-336 et al.); and section 6 of
- 37 P.L.2010, c.57 (C.34:1B-209.4) shall not exceed an overall cap of
- 38 \$11.5 billion over a seven-year period, subject to the conditions and
- 39 limitations set forth in this section. Of this \$11.5 billion, \$2.5
- 40 billion shall be reserved for transformative projects approved under
- 41 the Aspire Program.
- b. (1) The total value of tax credits awarded under any
- 43 constituent program of the "New Jersey Economic Recovery Act of
- 44 2020," P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-269 et al.) shall be subject to the
- 45 following annual limitations, except as otherwise provided in
- 46 subsection c. of this section:

1 (a) for tax credits awarded under the "Historic Property
2 Reinvestment Act," sections 1 through 8 of P.L.2020, c.156
3 (C.34:1B-269 through C.34:1B-276), the total value of tax credits
4 annually awarded during each of the first six years of the seven-year
5 period shall not exceed \$50 million;

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

- (b) for tax credits awarded under the "Brownfield Redevelopment Incentive Program Act," sections 9 through 19 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-277 through C.34:1B-287), the total value of tax credits annually awarded during each of the first six years of the seven-year period shall not exceed \$50 million;
- (c) for tax credits awarded under the "New Jersey Innovation Evergreen Act," sections 20 through 34 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-288 through C.34:1B-302), the total value of tax credits annually awarded during each of the first six years of the seven-year period shall not exceed \$60 million and the total value of tax credits awarded over the entirety of the seven-year program shall not exceed \$300,000,000;
- (d) for tax credits awarded under the "Food Desert Relief Act," sections 35 through 42 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-303 through C.34:1B-310), the total value of tax credits annually awarded during each of the first six years of the seven-year period shall not exceed \$40 million;
- 23 (e) for tax credits awarded under the "New Jersey Community-24 Anchored Development Act," sections 43 through 53 of P.L.2020, 25 c.156 (C.34:1B-311 through C.34:1B-321), the total value of tax 26 credits annually awarded during each of the first six years of the 27 seven-year period shall not exceed \$200 million, except that during 28 each of the first six years of the seven-year period, the authority 29 shall annually award tax credits valuing no greater than \$130 30 million for projects located in the 13 northern counties of the State, 31 and the authority shall annually award tax credits valuing no greater 32 than \$70 million for projects located in the eight southern counties 33 of the State. If during any of the first six years of the seven-year 34 period, the authority awards tax credits in an amount less than the 35 annual limitation for projects located in northern counties or 36 southern counties, as applicable, the uncommitted portion of the 37 annual limitation shall be available to be deployed by the authority 38 in a subsequent year, provided that the uncommitted portion of tax 39 credits shall be awarded for projects located in the applicable 40 geographic area, except that (i) after the completion of the third 41 year of the seven-year period, the authority may deploy 50 percent 42 of the uncommitted portion of tax credits from any previous year 43 without consideration to the county in which a project is located; 44 and (ii) after the completion of the sixth year of the seven-year 45 period, the authority may deploy all available tax credits, including 46 the uncommitted portion of the annual limitation for any previous

year, without consideration to the county in which a project is located;

3 (f) for tax credits awarded under the "New Jersey Aspire 4 Program Act," sections 54 through 67 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-5 322 through C.34:1B-335), and the "Emerge Program Act," sections 6 68 through 81 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-336 et al.), not 7 including tax credits awarded for transformative projects, the total 8 value of tax credits annually awarded during each of the first six 9 years of the seven-year period shall not exceed \$1.1 billion. If the 10 authority awards tax credits in an amount less than the annual 11 limitation, then the uncommitted portion of the annual limitation 12 shall be made available for qualified offshore wind projects awarded under section 6 of P.L.2010, c.57 (C.34:1B-209.4), 13 14 pursuant to subparagraph (h) of this paragraph, or New Jersey 15 studio partners and New Jersey film-lease partners awarded under 16 sections 1 and 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b and C.54A:4-17 12b), pursuant to subparagraph (i) of this paragraph. During each 18 of the first six years of the seven-year period, the authority shall 19 annually award tax credits valuing no greater than \$715 million for 20 projects located in the northern counties of the State, and the 21 authority shall annually award tax credits valuing no greater than 22 \$385 million for projects located in the southern counties of the 23 State under the "New Jersey Aspire Program Act," sections 54 24 through 67 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-322 through C.34:1B-335), 25 and the "Emerge Program Act," sections 68 through 81 of P.L.2020, 26 c.156 (C.34:1B-336 et al.). If during any of the first six years of the 27 seven-year period, the authority awards tax credits under the "New Jersey Aspire Program Act," sections 54 through 67 of P.L.2020, 28 29 c.156 (C.34:1B-322 through C.34:1B-335), and the "Emerge 30 Program Act," sections 68 through 81 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-31 336 et al.), in an amount less than the annual limitation for projects 32 located in northern counties or southern counties, as applicable, the 33 uncommitted portion of the annual limitation shall be available to 34 be deployed by the authority in a subsequent year, provided that the 35 uncommitted portion of tax credits shall be awarded for projects 36 located in the applicable geographic area, except that (i) after the 37 completion of the third year of the seven-year period, the authority 38 may deploy 50 percent of the uncommitted portion of tax credits for 39 any previous year without consideration to the county in which a 40 project is located; and (ii) after the completion of the sixth year of 41 the seven-year period, the authority may deploy all available tax 42 credits, including the uncommitted portion of the annual limitation 43 for any previous year, without consideration to the county in which 44 a project is located; 45

(g) for tax credits awarded for transformative projects under the "New Jersey Aspire Program Act," sections 54 through 67 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-322 through C.34:1B-335), the total

46

- value of tax credits awarded during the seven-year period shall not exceed \$2.5 billion. The total value of tax credits awarded for transformative projects in a given year shall not be subject to an annual limitation, except that the total value of tax credits awarded to any transformative project shall not exceed \$350 million;
- 6 (h) from the tax credits made available, pursuant to 7 subparagraph (f) of this paragraph, to the "New Jersey Aspire 8 Program Act," sections 54 through 67 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-9 322 through C.34:1B-335), and the "Emerge Program Act," sections 10 68 through 81 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-336 et al.), not 11 including tax credits awarded for transformative projects, an 12 amount not to exceed \$350,000,000 shall be made available for qualified offshore wind projects awarded a credit pursuant to 13 section 6 of P.L.2010, c.57 (C.34:1B-209.4) during the first three 14 15 years of the seven-year period; and

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

- (i) beginning in fiscal year 2025, from the tax credits made available, pursuant to subparagraph (f) of this paragraph, to the "New Jersey Aspire Program Act," sections 54 through 67 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-322 through C.34:1B-335), and the "Emerge Program Act," sections 68 through 81 of P.L.2020, c.156 (C.34:1B-336 et al.), not including tax credits awarded for transformative projects, additional amounts shall be made available for New Jersey studio partners and New Jersey film-lease partners pursuant to sections 1 and 2 of P.L.2018, c.56 (C.54:10A-5.39b and C.54A:4-12b).
 - (2) The authority may in any given year determine that it is in the State's interest to approve an amount of tax credits in excess of the annual limitations set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection, but in no event more than \$200,000,000 in excess of the annual limitation, upon a determination by the authority board that such increase is warranted based on specific criteria that may include:
 - (i) the increased demand for opportunities to create or retain employment and investment in the State as indicated by the volume of project applications and the amount of tax credits being sought by those applications;
 - (ii) the need to protect the State's economic position in the event of an economic downturn;
 - (iii) the quality of project applications and the net economic benefit to the State and municipalities associated with those applications;
- 41 (iv) opportunities for project applications to strengthen or 42 protect the competitiveness of the state under the prevailing market 43 conditions;
- 44 (v) enhanced access to employment and investment for 45 underserved populations in distressed municipalities and qualified 46 incentives tracts;

34

- (vi) increased investment and employment in high-growth technology sectors and in projects that entail collaboration with education institutions in the State;
 - (vii) increased development proximate to mass transit facilities;
 - (viii) any other factor deemed relevant by the authority.
- c. In the event that the authority in any year approves projects 6 7 for tax credits in an amount less than the annual limitations set forth 8 in paragraph (1) of subsection b. of this section, then the 9 uncommitted portion of the annual limitation shall be available to 10 be deployed by the authority in future years for projects under the 11 same program; provided however, that in no event shall the 12 aggregate amount of tax credits approved be in excess of the overall cap of \$11.5 billion, and in no event shall the uncommitted portion 13 14 of the annual limitation for any previous year be deployed after the 15 conclusion of the seven-year period.¹

16 (cf: P.L.2021, c.160, s.47)

17 18

1

2

4

5

 1 [3.] $5.^{1}$ This act shall take effect immediately.