

HB 1645 -- TAX CREDITS FOR FILM PROJECTS

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Business Attraction and Retention by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill requires a qualified film production project to feature a state or logo designated by the Department of Economic Development indicating that the project was filmed in Missouri in order to qualify for the tax credit.

Currently, a taxpayer is allowed a tax credit for up to 35% of the amount of qualifying expenses in a qualified film production project per year. Beginning January 1, 2016, the bill allows a taxpayer to claim a tax credit equal to 20% for qualifying in-state expenses and qualifying out-of-state expenses. A highly compensated individual is anyone who receives more than \$250,000 in compensation for a single qualified film production project. An additional 5% may be earned for qualifying expenses if at least 50% of the production is filmed in Missouri.

The provisions of this bill will expire six years after August 28, 2016.

This bill is similar to HB 803 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will highlight production opportunities for film companies, and tourism possibilities for film audiences. Film related tax credit incentives benefit all areas of the state, and would bring attention to parts of Missouri that are otherwise ignored.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; Joni Tackette, Missouri Motion Media Association; Tim Jacobsen, Lake Of The Ozarks Convention And Visitors Bureau; Stephanie Scupham, Kansas City Film And Media Office; Associated Industries Of Missouri; City Of Kansas City; St. Louis Hotel Association; and the Missouri Restaurant Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.