

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT SENATE BILL 704, AND ITS RELATED BILL, HOUSE BILL 757, BOTH OF WHICH SEEK TO CREATE A STATE-FUNDED FILM, TELEVISION, AND DIGITAL MEDIA REBATE PROGRAM TO INCENTIVIZE THE FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL INDUSTRY IN AN EFFORT TO REVITALIZE THE STATE ECONOMY FROM THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN RELATING TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC; AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO SEND A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE SPEAKER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA SENATE.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 704 (“SB 704”) and its related House Bill 757 (“HB 757”) have been filed for consideration during the Florida Legislature’s 2021 session by Senator Joe Gruters and House Representative Dana Trabulsy, respectively; and

WHEREAS, SB 704 seeks to create the Film, Television, and Digital Media Targeted Rebate Program (the “Program”) within the Department of Economic Opportunity, under the supervision of the Commissioner of Film and Entertainment; and

WHEREAS, if enacted, the proposed bill will (i) boost the State’s economic prosperity by creating high-paying jobs and broadening the film, television, and digital media industry’s impact on the state by giving a modest bonus for projects that take place in underutilized areas;(ii) enhance tourism by supporting projects that encourage tourists to visit the State; and (iii) encourage more family-friendly productions to be produced in the State; and

WHEREAS, SB 704 seeks to accomplish its goals by providing a limited rebate to projects that provide the highest return on investment and economic benefit to the state, as determined after a project has made its expenditures in the state; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the Program would offer film, television, and digital media productions a rebate for the lesser of 20% or \$2 million of production costs if they are pre-approved as a “certified project; and

WHEREAS, to obtain certification, studios must rent equipment such as cameras, vehicles or lighting setups from Florida businesses; spend at least 70% of their budget or production days in Florida; employ a majority Floridian cast and crew, one of whom is majority veteran; and meet minimum budget requirements — \$1.5 million for films or \$500,000 per episode for TV or streaming episodes; and

WHEREAS, projects could qualify for another 3% rebate if they film in underutilized counties or if they are deemed “family friendly” by the Commissioner of Film and Entertainment and a council; and

WHEREAS, government watching group Florida TaxWatch opined that its research shows that a proposed Program could create jobs for Florida residents, promote Florida tourism, pump additional revenue into local businesses, and generate state and local revenues; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, the Mayor and City Commission declare their support for, and urge the Florida Legislature to enact, SB 704, and/or HB 757 or other similar legislation that will accomplish the same goals as the Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby urge the Florida Legislature to enact Senate Bill 704, and/or its related bill, House Bill 757, both of which seek to create a state-funded Film, Television, and Digital Media Rebate Program to incentivize the film, television and digital industry in an effort to revitalize the state economy from the economic downturn relating to COVID-19 pandemic; and direct the City Clerk to send a copy of this Resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and the President of the Florida Senate.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of February 2021.


ATTEST:

Mayor Dan Gelber

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Co-sponsored by Mayor Dan Gelber and
Commissioners Micky Steinberg and Michael Gongora)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney
RA

2-18-21

Date