

HOUSE BILL 1806

By Marsh

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 49 and Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 50, relative to visual content grants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-3-4901, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a) This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Visual Content Expansion Act."

(b) The purpose of this part is to provide grants for the following:

(1) The production of motion pictures, television series, video games and digital media that provide jobs and business opportunities for support industries in this state, including music for visual content projects;

(2) Vocational training for permanent jobs in video gaming, animation, virtual reality, and related digital media;

(3) Support of curricula administered through educational institutions and nonprofit organizations to train Tennesseans regarding the financing, marketing, distribution, and monetization of their own projects, as well as entrepreneurship programs regarding the establishment of their own companies to produce Tennessee-originated content; and

(4) Support of programs that establish bridges to capital resources and entertainment product distribution companies.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-3-4902, is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision:

() "State-certified project or vocational program" means a project or vocational program in an industry related to motion pictures, television, video gaming, and digital media, including music for visual content, that meets the criteria established by the commission to receive a grant;

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 49, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) The visual content expansion fund is established as a separate account in the general fund to be administered by the department.

(b) The visual content expansion fund is composed of:

(1) Funds appropriated by the general assembly for the fund; and

(2) Gifts, grants, and other donations received by the department or the commission for the fund.

(c)

(1) Moneys in the visual content expansion fund must be appropriated and expended to provide grants to for-profit, nonprofit, or educational entities for state-certified projects or vocational programs for the purposes of expanding job and business ownership opportunities for Tennesseans in industries related to motion pictures, television, video gaming, or digital media. Moneys in the fund may also be used by the department to defray the expenses of administering this section as long as the expenses do not exceed five percent (5%) of the total amount appropriated by the general assembly for the fund in any fiscal year.

(2) The amount of each grant awarded pursuant to this section shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the total expenses incurred by a grant recipient entity for a state-certified project or vocational program unless the department deems a higher amount to be appropriate. It is the legislative intent that funding be appropriated each year in the general appropriations act for

awarding grants. It is further the legislative intent that the department strive to award the maximum amount of grants authorized by this section.

(d) Moneys in the fund must be invested by the state treasurer pursuant to title 9, chapter 4, part 6, for the sole benefit of the fund, and interest accruing on investments and deposits of the fund must be returned to the fund and remain part of the fund.

(e) Subject to the availability of revenue at the end of each fiscal year, the commissioner of finance and administration is authorized to carry forward any amounts remaining in the fund or transfer any part of the fund to the revenue fluctuation reserve.

(f) It is the intent of the general assembly that, to the extent practicable, moneys from the fund must be used to provide grants to entities for state-certified projects or vocational programs in all areas of this state.

(g) It is the intent of the general assembly that the commission shall actively encourage independent creators and minority participants to apply for grants.

(h) Grants from the fund must not exceed the amount available in the fund at any time. No less frequently than biannually, the executive director shall report to the commissioner of finance and administration on the status of the grant program. The report must include, at a minimum, the amount of each grant awarded since the previous report and the name of the entity receiving the benefit of each grant, the total amount of outstanding grants, and the total unobligated amount in the fund. A copy of each report must be transmitted to the speaker of the house of representatives and the speaker of the senate; the chairs of the finance, ways and means committees of the senate and the house of representatives; the state treasurer; the comptroller of the treasury; and the office of legislative budget analysis.

SECTION 4. For the purpose of promulgating rules, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it.