

FLORIDA FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Special Meeting to Discuss Senate Bill 530/House Bill 497

December 11, 2019

10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

107 East Madison St.

Tallahassee, FL 32399

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Administrative (Chair Nicholas Popp)

Call to Order by Chair Popp at 10 a.m.

Roll Call:

Committee Members:

Kevin Ambler

Cynthia Angelos

Adam Goodman

Sandy Lighterman

Nicholas Popp

Pamela Tuscany

Marc Meisel

Ex-Officio:

N/A

Members of the Public:

Christi Andreoni

John Lux

Office of Film and Entertainment (OFE) Staff:

Commissioner Niki Welge

Susan Simms

Allie Pratt

WELCOME

Chair Popp welcomed everyone and thanked councilmembers for agreeing to the call on short notice.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Senate Bill 530/House Bill 497 (Chair Nicholas Popp)

Chair Popp said John Lux gave an overview of HB 497/ SB 530 on last week's call, and Allie attached the bills to an email to the council for review.

Pamela Tuscany expressed concern that the bills on the table are not competitive enough. Kevin Ambler said that the bill is a jobs creation bill and would be a good starting place to get industry incentives back in place.

Pamela said she is concerned the council should wait to provide support for a more aggressive bill. Chair Popp said there is no way to know what will be on the table next year, and the state is losing business in the meantime. Kevin said the state needs to put the incentive mechanism back in place as a first step—this bill does that. Sandy Lighterman said that leadership and future leadership have expressed that they would only support a conservative program like this program. Kevin said that the money available each year could be increased.

Susan Simms discussed support for the bills knowing they are very unlikely to pass.

Chair Popp said he would like to draft a letter to legislators in support of the bills on behalf of the council. He said there needs to be another meeting so the council can review and approve letter that he will draft.

Regarding the letter, Kevin said he would like to see all the councilmembers listed with their occupation on the letter and have it presented in a committee meeting in the House.

Sandy reminded everyone that the bill has not been added to a committee agenda in the House.

Kevin said another option would be to send the letter to majority leaders in House and Senate as well as staff director of every committee to which it has been assigned asking that it be put on agenda because it is a high-wage job creation program.

Chair Popp called for motion to create a council resolution regarding these bills.

A resolution was passed unanimously supporting the creation of a targeted rebate program for the film, television, and digital media industry; WHEREAS, Florida's film, television, and entertainment industries provide substantial benefits to Florida's economy; WHEREAS, Senate Bill 530 and House Bill 497 would create a targeted rebate program for the film, television, and digital media industry; WHEREAS, the targeted rebate program would create high-wage jobs for Floridians and serve as an economic driver for the state; NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council: That we support and encourage the Legislature to pass Senate Bill 530 and House Bill 497, which are intended to promote the creation of high-wage jobs in Florida and serve as an economic driver.

Based on council discussion, the next meeting time will tentatively be next Tuesday, December 17 at 11 a.m. Chair Popp will send draft of letter prior to meeting.

Public Comment

Chair Popp opened the floor for public comment.

No members of public had comments.

ADJOURN 11 A.M.