HLS 15RS-1550 ORIGINAL

2015 Regular Session

1

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 69

BY REPRESENTATIVE PONTI

TAX CREDITS: Urges and requests the International Alliance of Theatrical State Employees Local 478 to allow Baton Rouge, Louisiana to become a production center in its upcoming negotiations with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the International Alliance of Theatrical State Employees (IATSE) Local
3	478 to allow Baton Rouge, Louisiana to become a production center in its upcoming
4	negotiations with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers
5	(AMPTP).
6	WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana desires to support making Baton Rouge,
7	Louisiana a designated production city in the upcoming Area Standards Agreement
8	negotiations, which will begin April 27, 2015, between the Alliance of Motion Picture and
9	Television Producers (AMPTP) and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage
0	Employees film union (IATSE), a member of the AFL-CIO; and
1	WHEREAS, the negotiations between the AMPTP and the IATSE only take place
12	once every three years; and
13	WHEREAS, Louisiana is now recognized throughout the entertainment industry as
4	one of the world's top producers of motion pictures, but still must compete with dozens of
15	states and nations for projects and jobs; and
16	WHEREAS, the majority of film workers on many motion picture productions in
17	Louisiana belong to the IATSE Local 478 union, which covers all of Louisiana and is based
18	out of New Orleans; and
19	WHEREAS, Baton Rouge and New Orleans make Louisiana stronger when they
20	work together and support each other; and

1	WHEREAS, New Orleans and Shreveport have already been granted the production
2	center union status, but Baton Rouge, which hosted over \$1.3 billion in total productions
3	since 2009, was denied this status in 2012 due to objections of Local 478; and
4	WHEREAS, Baton Rouge is the only city in the United States that the AMPTP asked
5	to be added to the list of over three dozen existing production centers; and
6	WHEREAS, IATSE crew members with a New Orleans address are entitled to an
7	additional three hundred and ninety-two dollars per week and other benefits from feature
8	film productions if they work in the Baton Rouge area, but IATSE crew members with a
9	Baton Rouge address are not entitled to additional pay if they work in the New Orleans area
10	and Baton Rouge crew should be treated as equals with New Orleans crew; and
11	WHEREAS, this unlevel playing field discourages IATSE members from keeping
12	a Baton Rouge address and prevents Baton Rouge from being able to properly grow its
13	workforce and that lack of workforce discourages more filming from happening in the Baton
14	Rouge area; and
15	WHEREAS, the additional expense caused by Baton Rouge's lack of an IATSE-
16	recognized production center status can raise the cost of a production by more than \$1
17	million in many instances, causing the state of Louisiana to issue more in motion picture
18	investor tax credits than it normally would if Baton Rouge had a level playing field, at a time
19	when Louisiana film industry needs to find ways to save revenue to balance the state's
20	budget; and
21	WHEREAS, Baton Rouge, Louisiana has more IATSE crew members than the
22	recognized IATSE production centers of Anchorage, Alaska; Charlotte, North Carolina;
23	Richmond, Virginia; St. Louis, Missouri; and Tucson, Arizona; and
24	WHEREAS, jobs that would have gone to Baton Rouge, if it were an IATSE
25	production center, often go to other states and nations because IATSE Local 478 opposed
26	making Baton Rouge a production center in 2012; and
27	WHEREAS, Movie Maker Magazine declared Baton Rouge, the number one small
28	city to live and work in in the film industry in 2015, just ahead of New Orleans, which
29	ranked second.

- 1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
- 2 urge and request the IATSE Local 478 to allow Baton Rouge to become a production center
- 3 in its upcoming negotiations with the AMPTP.
- 4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Phil
- 5 LoCicero, President of IATSE Local 478.

## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 69 Original

2015 Regular Session

Ponti

Urges and requests the IATSE Local 478 to allow Baton Rouge, Louisiana to become a production center in its upcoming negotiations with the AMPTP.