

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 19-0168R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Pinkett, Henry, Cohen, Dorsey, Bullock, President Scott,
Councilmembers Sneed, Reisinger

Introduced and read first time: September 23, 2019

Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Baltimore Office of Promotion and
Arts, Department of Finance

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Growing the Film Industry in Baltimore**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts
4 to speak at an informational hearing regarding the current status and future potential of the
5 film industry in Baltimore, and asking the 2020 Baltimore City Delegation to the Maryland
6 General Assembly to support an increase in Film Production Activity Tax Credit amounts in
7 order to maintain and grow the film industry in Baltimore City.

8 **Recitals**

9 Baltimore has been home to many film and television show productions. Over 70 films and
10 television shows have been shot in Maryland since 2000. Many of these productions have been
11 filmed specifically in Baltimore. Television shows like Veep and House of Cards were at least
12 partially shot in Baltimore, as well as films like Step Up and Live Free or Die Hard. Baltimore
13 works very well as a stand-in for Washington DC, which due to security concerns is frequently
14 difficult for companies to film in. Television shows and movies that are filmed in Baltimore
15 advertise our City's beauty to potential visitors around the world. In addition, these large
16 productions provide jobs for City residents. The Baltimore City Council is interested in learning
17 more about the current status and future potential of the film industry in Baltimore.

18 To promote film and television production in Maryland, the State provides Film Production
19 Activity Tax Credits. For Fiscal Year 2020, the tax credit amount is \$11 million; for 2021 the
20 amount is \$14 million; for 2022 the amount is \$17 million; and for 2023 the amount is \$20
21 million, and will remain at \$20 million for subsequent years. There is a 10% carve-out for
22 independent Maryland productions. To maintain and grow the film industry in Baltimore City,
23 the State needs to substantially increase annual available tax credit amounts for the industry. The
24 Baltimore City Council is committed to increasing the presence of the film industry and bringing
25 all of its benefits to the City, and therefore supports the increase in tax credit amounts for the
26 industry.

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
28 Baltimore City Council invites representatives from the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the
29 Arts to speak at an informational hearing regarding the current status and future potential of the
30 film industry in Baltimore; and asks the 2020 Baltimore City Delegation to the Maryland General

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 Assembly to support an increase in Film Production Activity Tax Credit amounts in order to
2 maintain and grow the film industry in Baltimore City.

3 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the 2020 Baltimore
4 City Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly, the Director of the Baltimore Film Office,
5 the Logistics Coordinator of the Baltimore Film Office, the CEO of the Baltimore Office of
6 Promotion and the Arts, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.