

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 69

BY REPRESENTATIVE PONTI

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) 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 (AMPTP).

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana desires to support making Baton Rouge, Louisiana a designated production city in the upcoming Area Standards Agreement negotiations, which will begin April 27, 2015, between the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees film union (IATSE), a member of the AFL-CIO; and

WHEREAS, the negotiations between the AMPTP and the IATSE only take place once every three years; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is now recognized throughout the entertainment industry as one of the world's top producers of motion pictures, but still must compete with dozens of states and nations for projects and jobs; and

WHEREAS, the majority of film workers on many motion picture productions in Louisiana belong to the IATSE Local 478 union, which covers all of Louisiana and is based out of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Baton Rouge and New Orleans make Louisiana stronger when they work together and support each other; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans and Shreveport have already been granted the production center union status, but Baton Rouge, which hosted over \$1.3 billion in total productions since 2009, was denied this status in 2012 due to objections of Local 478; and

WHEREAS, Baton Rouge is the only city in the United States that the AMPTP asked to be added to the list of over three dozen existing production centers; and

WHEREAS, IATSE crew members with a New Orleans address are entitled to an additional three hundred ninety-two dollars per week and other benefits from feature film productions if they work in the Baton Rouge area, but IATSE crew members with a Baton Rouge address are not entitled to additional pay if they work in the New Orleans area and Baton Rouge crew should be treated as equals with New Orleans crew; and

WHEREAS, this unlevel playing field discourages IATSE members from keeping a Baton Rouge address and prevents Baton Rouge from being able to properly grow its workforce and that lack of workforce discourages more filming from happening in the Baton Rouge area; and

WHEREAS, the additional expense caused by Baton Rouge's lack of an IATSE-recognized production center status can raise the cost of a production by more than \$1 million in many instances, causing the state of Louisiana to issue more in motion picture investor tax credits than it normally would if Baton Rouge had a level playing field, at a time when Louisiana film industry needs to find ways to save revenue to balance the state's budget; and

WHEREAS, Baton Rouge, Louisiana has more IATSE crew members than the recognized IATSE production centers of Anchorage, Alaska; Charlotte, North Carolina; Richmond, Virginia; St. Louis, Missouri; and Tucson, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, jobs that would have gone to Baton Rouge, if it were an IATSE production center, often go to other states and nations because IATSE Local 478 opposed making Baton Rouge a production center in 2012; and

WHEREAS, *Movie Maker Magazine* declared Baton Rouge, the number one small city to live and work in in the film industry in 2015, just ahead of New Orleans, which ranked second.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the IATSE Local 478 to allow Baton Rouge to become a production center in its upcoming negotiations with the AMPTP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Phil LoCicero, President of IATSE Local 478.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE