

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Film Commission Programs]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to modify the daily use fees to engage in film production, to extend the Film Rebate Program through 2028, to correspondingly increase the authorized funding cap for the Film Rebate Project Account from \$4,000,000 to \$13,000,000; and to add administrative penalties for violations of requirements of Film Commission programs.

Existing Law

Existing law provides for the Film Rebate Program. The purpose of the Film Rebate Program is to increase the number of qualified film productions being made in San Francisco, increase the number of City residents employed in the filmmaking industry, and encourage the resulting economic benefits from increased filmmaking in San Francisco. Under the Film Rebate Program, the City pays one dollar for each dollar a “qualified low budget film production” or “qualified film production” pays in certain production costs to the City, not to exceed the \$4,000,000 cap on the Film Rebate Project Account.

The Film Rebate Program is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2019.

Administrative Code Chapter 57, which establishes the City’s Film Commission, does not provide for any penalties if a film production violates the requirements of Film Commission programs.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance provides that the sunset date for the Film Rebate Program is extended to June 30, 2028, and the cap on the Film Rebate Project Account is increased to \$13,000,000.

The proposed ordinance also provides for administrative penalties in an amount up to three times the applicable use fee to any person who has violated the requirements of Film Commission programs. A film production seeking certification that a film was made in compliance with the laws of the jurisdiction where it was filmed, but that did not enter into a use contract at the time of filming, could receive a certification of compliance upon payment of the administrative penalty and upon signing an agreement to hold the City harmless for any costs associated with any loss or claim attributable to any of the activities of the film production in connection with the filming.

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