§ 8603–A. Reporting and remittance of tax

Research References

Encyclopedias

ARTICLE XVI–B. NONLICENSED CORPORATION PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING TAX [REPEALED]


Disposition Table

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ARTICLE XVII–B. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

§ 8701–B. Short title

Research References

Encyclopedias

§ 8703–B. Credit for research and development expenses

Research References

Encyclopedias

§ 8704–B. Carryover, carryback, refund and assignment of credit

Research References

Encyclopedias

TAXATION AND FISCAL AFFAIRS 72 P.S. § 8713–B

§ 8707–B. Time limitations
The termination date in section 41(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law 99–514, 26 U.S.C. § 41(h)) does not apply to a taxpayer who is eligible for the research and development tax credit under this article for the taxable year in which the Pennsylvania qualified research and development expense is incurred.


Historical and Statutory Notes

Act 2016–84 legislation
Act 2016–84, § 18.1, deleted the former first sentence, which read: "A taxpayer is not entitled to a research and development tax credit for Pennsylvania qualified research and development expenses incurred in taxable years ending after December 31, 2015."

Research References

Encyclopedias

§ 8709–B. Limitation on credits

Research References

Encyclopedias

§ 8711–B. Report to General Assembly

Research References

Encyclopedias

§ 8713–B. Regulations

Research References

Encyclopedias

ARTICLE XVII–D. ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

Historical and Statutory Notes

Act 2016–84 legislation
Section 19 of 2016, July 13, P.L. 526, No. 84, imd. effective, amended the Article XVII–D heading by substituting "Entertainment" for "Film."
§ 8701-D. Scope of article


Historical and Statutory Notes

Act 2016–84 legislation

Act 2016–84, § 21, substituted “entertainment” for “film”.

§ 8702-D. Definitions

The following words and phrases when used in this article shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Department.” The Department of Community and Economic Development of the Commonwealth.


Historical and Statutory Notes

Prior Laws:

A prior § 8702-D, supplying definitions applicable to film production, was renumbered as 72 P.S. § 8711-D pursuant to Act 2016, July 13, P.L. 526, No. 84, § 24.

§§ 8703-D to 8710-D. Renumbered as 72 P.S. §§ 8712-D to 8716-D, 8717-D to 8719-D pursuant to Act 2016, July 13, P.L. 526, No. 84, §§ 24 to 28, 29, imd. effective

SUBARTICLE B. FIlM PRODUCTION

Historical and Statutory Notes

Act 2016–84 legislation

Section 23 of 2016, July 13, P.L. 526, No. 84, imd. effective, added the Subarticle B heading.
(4) The cost of transportation incurred while transporting to or from a train station, bus depot or airport, located in this Commonwealth.

(5) The cost of insurance coverage purchased through an insurance agent based in this Commonwealth.

(6) The purchase of music or story rights if any of the following subparagraphs apply:
   (i) The purchase is from a resident of this Commonwealth.
   (ii) The purchase is from an entity subject to taxation in this Commonwealth, and the transaction is subject to taxation under Article III, IV or VI.6

(7) The cost of rental of facilities and equipment rented from or through a resident of this Commonwealth or an entity subject to taxation in this Commonwealth.

(8) A qualified postproduction expense.

"Postproduction expense." A postproduction expense of original content for a film as follows:

(1) The term includes traditional, emerging and new work-flow techniques used in postproduction for any of the following:
   (i) Picture, sound and music editorial, rerecording and mixing.
   (ii) Visual effects.
   (iii) Graphic design.
   (iv) Original scoring.
   (v) Animation.
   (vi) Musical composition.
   (vii) Mastering.
   (viii) Dubbing.

(2) The term does not include any of the following:
   (i) Editing previously produced content for a film.
   (ii) News or current affairs.
   (iii) Talk shows.
   (iv) Instructional videos.
   (v) Content which contains obscene material or performances as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 5903(b).

"Production expense." As follows:

(1) The term includes all of the following:
   (i) Compensation paid to an individual employed in the production of the film.
   (ii) Payment to a personal service corporation representing individual talent.
   (iii) Payment to a pass-through entity representing individual talent.
   (iv) The costs of construction, operations, editing, photography, sound synchronization, lighting, wardrobe and accessories.
   (v) The cost of leasing vehicles.
   (vi) The cost of transportation to or from a train station, bus depot or airport.
   (vii) The cost of insurance coverage.
   (viii) The costs of food and lodging.
   (ix) The purchase of music or story rights.
   (x) The cost of rental of facilities and equipment.

(2) The term does not include any of the following:

(i) Deferred, leveraged or profit participation paid or to be paid to individuals employed in the production of the film or paid to entities representing an individual for services provided in the production of the film.

(ii) Development cost.

(iii) Expense incurred in marketing or advertising a film.

(iv) Cost related to the sale or assignment of a film production tax credit under section 1714–D(e).7

"Qualified film production expense." All Pennsylvania production expenses if Pennsylvania production expenses comprise at least 60% of the film's total production expenses. The term shall not include more than $15,000,000 in the aggregate of compensation paid to individuals or payment made to entities representing an individual for services provided in the production of the film.

"Qualified postproduction expense." A postproduction expense incurred at a qualified postproduction facility.

"Qualified postproduction facility." A permanent facility where Pennsylvania postproduction activities are conducted and expenses are incurred to which all of the following apply:

(1) The facility is located in this Commonwealth.
(2) The facility is approved by the department.
(3) The facility employs at least ten full-time employees who reside in this Commonwealth.
(4) There is at least $500,000 of capital investment in the facility.

"Qualified production facility." A film production facility located within this Commonwealth that contains at least one sound stage with a column-free, unobstructed floor space and meets either of the following criteria:

(1) Has had a minimum of $10,000,000 invested in the film production facility in land or a structure purchased or ground-up, purpose-built new construction or renovation of existing improvement.
(2) Meets at least three of the following criteria:
   (i) A sound stage having an industry standard noise criteria rating of 25 or better.
   (ii) A permanent grid with a minimum point load capacity of no less than 1,000 pounds at a minimum of 25 points.
   (iii) Built-in power supply available at a minimum of 4,000 amperes per sound stage without the need for supplemental generators.
   (iv) A height from sound stage floor to permanent grid of a minimum of 20 feet.
   (v) A sound stage with a sliding or roll-up access door with a minimum height of 14 feet.
   (vi) A built-in HVAC capacity during shoot days with a minimum of 50 tons of cooling capacity available per sound stage.
   (vii) Perimeter security that includes a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week security presence and use of access control identification badges.
   (viii) On-site lighting and grip department with an available inventory stored at the film production facility with a minimum cost of investment of $500,000.
   (ix) A sound stage with contiguous production offices with a minimum of 5,000 square feet per sound stage.
“Qualified tax liability.” The liability for taxes imposed under Article III, IV, VI, VII, VIII, IX or XV. The term shall not include any tax withheld by an employer from an employee under Article III.

“Start date.” As follows:
(1) For a film:
   (i) the first day of principal photography in this Commonwealth; or
   (ii) an earlier date approved by the Pennsylvania Film Office.
(2) For a postproduction project, a date approved by the Pennsylvania Film Office.

“Tax credit.” The film production tax credit provided under this subarticle.

“Taxpayer.” A film production company subject to tax under Article III, IV or VI. The term does not include contractors or subcontractors of a film production company.


$ 8712-D. Credit for qualified film production expenses

Section 51(5)(iii) of Act of 2016, July 13, P.L. 526, No. 84, provides that the amendment by that Act of 72 P.S. § 8702-D renumbered as 72 P.S. § 8712-D shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2016.

(a) Application.—A taxpayer may apply to the department for a tax credit under this section. The application shall be on the form required by the department.

(b) Review and approval.—The department shall establish application periods not to exceed 90 days each. All applications received during the application period shall be reviewed and evaluated by the department based on the following criteria:

(1) The anticipated number of production days in a qualified production facility.
(2) The anticipated number of Pennsylvania employees.
(3) The number of preproduction days through postproduction days in Pennsylvania.
(4) The anticipated number of days spent in Pennsylvania hotels.
(5) The Pennsylvania production expenses in comparison to the production budget.
(6) The use of studio resources.
(7) If the application includes a qualified postproduction expense:
   (i) The qualified postproduction facility where the activity will occur.
   (ii) The anticipated type of postproduction activity that will be conducted.
(8) Other criteria that the Director of the Pennsylvania Film Office deems appropriate to ensure maximum employment and benefit within this Commonwealth.

Upon determining the taxpayer has incurred or will incur qualified film production expenses, the department may approve the taxpayer for a tax credit. Applications not approved may be reviewed and considered in subsequent application periods. The department may approve a taxpayer for a tax credit based on its evaluation of the criteria under this subsection.
(c) Contract.—If the department approves the taxpayer's application under subsection (b), the department and the taxpayer shall enter into a contract containing the following:

(i) An itemized list of production expenses incurred or to be incurred for the film.

(ii) An itemized list of Pennsylvania production expenses incurred or to be incurred for the film.

(iii) With respect to a contract entered into prior to completion of production, a commitment by the taxpayer to incur the qualified film production expenses as itemized.

(iv) The start date.

(v) Any other information the department deems appropriate.

(d) Certificate.—Upon execution of the contract required by subsection (c), the department shall award the taxpayer a film production tax credit and issue the taxpayer a film production tax credit certificate.


Historical and Statutory Notes

Act 2012–85 legislation

Act 2012–85, § 15.1, rewrote subsec. (b), which prior thereto read:

"(b) Review and approval.—The department shall review and approve or disapprove the applications in the order in which they are received. Upon determining the taxpayer has incurred or will incur qualified film production expenses, the department may approve the taxpayer for a tax credit."

Act 2013–52 legislation


Section 42(1.1) of 2013, July 9, P.L. 270, No. 52, imd. effective, provides that the amendment of 72 P.S. §§ 8702-D and 8703-D by this act shall apply to tax credits awarded after June 30, 2013.

Cross References

Limitations, see 72 P.S. § 8716-D.
Pass-through entity, see 72 P.S. § 8718-D.
Penalty, see 72 P.S. § 8717-D.
Reissuance of film production tax credits, see 72 P.S. § 8716.1-D.

Library References

Taxation ≡3517.
Westlaw Topic No. 371.

§ 8713-D. Film production tax credits

A taxpayer may claim a tax credit against the qualified tax liability of the taxpayer.


Historical and Statutory Notes

Prior Laws:

Renumbered from 72 P.S. § 8704–D in 2016.

Library References

Taxation ≡3517.
Westlaw Topic No. 371.

§ 8714-D. Carryover, carryback and assignment of credit

(a) General rule.—If the taxpayer cannot use the entire amount of the tax credit for the taxable year in which the tax credit is first approved, then the excess may be carried over to succeeding taxable years and used as a credit against the qualified tax liability of the taxpayer for those taxable years. Each time the tax credit is carried over to a succeeding taxable year, it shall be reduced by the amount that was used as a credit during the immediately preceding taxable year. The tax credit provided by this subsection may be carried over and applied to succeeding taxable years for no more than three taxable years following the first taxable year for which the taxpayer was entitled to claim the credit.

(b) Application.—A tax credit approved by the department in a taxable year first shall be applied against the taxpayer's qualified tax liability for the current taxable year as of the date on which the credit was approved before the tax credit can be applied against any tax liability under subsection (a).

(c) No carryback or refund.—A taxpayer is not entitled to carry back or obtain a refund of all or any portion of an unused tax credit granted to the taxpayer under this subsection.

(d) (Reserved).

(e) Sale or assignment.—The following shall apply:

(1) A taxpayer, upon application to and approval by the department, may sell or assign, in whole or in part, a tax credit granted to the taxpayer under this subsection.

(2) The department and the Department of Revenue shall jointly promulgate regulations for the approval of applications under this subsection.

(3) Before an application is approved, the Department of Revenue must make a finding that the applicant has filed all required State tax reports and returns for all applicable taxable years and paid any balance of State tax due as determined at settlement, assessment or determination by the Department of Revenue.
TAXATION AND FISCAL AFFAIRS

§ 8714–D. Determination of Pennsylvania production expenses

In prescribing standards for determining which production expenses are considered Pennsylvania production expenses for purposes of computing the credit provided by this subsection, the department shall consider:

(1) The location where services are performed.
(2) The location where supplies are consumed.
(3) Other factors the department determines are relevant.


Historical and Statutory Notes

Act 2016–84 legislation
Act 2016–84, § 27, substituted “this subarticle” for “this article”.

Prior Laws:
Renumbered from 72 P.S. § 8706–D in 2016.

Library References
Taxation 3517.
Westlaw Topic No. 371.

§ 8715–D. Limitations

Section 51(7) of Act 2016, July 13, P.L. 526, No. 84, provides that the amendment by that Act of 72 P.S. § 8707–D(a) renumbered as 72 P.S. § 8716–D(a) shall apply to fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2017.

(a) Cap.—Except for tax credits reissued under section 1761.1–D,1 in no case shall the aggregate amount of tax credits awarded in any fiscal year under this subarticle exceed $65,000,000. The department may, in its discretion, award in one fiscal year up to:

(1) Thirty percent of the dollar amount of film production tax credits available to be awarded in the next succeeding fiscal year.
(2) Twenty percent of the dollar amount of film production tax credits available to be awarded in the second succeeding fiscal year.
(3) Ten percent of the dollar amount of film production tax credits available to be awarded in the third succeeding fiscal year.

(a.1) Advance award of credits.—The advance award of film tax credits under subsection (a) shall:

(1) count against the total dollar amount of credits that the department may award in that next succeeding fiscal year; and
(2) reduce the dollar amount of credits that the department may award in that next succeeding fiscal year.

The individual limitations on the awarding of film production tax credits apply to an advance award of film production tax credits under subsection (a) and to a combination of film production tax credits awarded against the current fiscal year cap and against the next succeeding fiscal year’s cap.

(b) Individual limitations.—The following shall apply:

(1) Except as set forth in paragraph (1.1) or (1.2), the aggregate amount of film production tax credits awarded by the department under section 1712–D(d) to a taxpayer for a film may not exceed 25% of the qualified film production expenses to be incurred.

Cross References
Pass-through entity, see 72 P.S. § 8718–D.

Library References
Taxation 3517.
Westlaw Topic No. 371.
(1.1) In addition to the tax credit under paragraph (1), a taxpayer is eligible for a credit in the amount of 5% of the qualified film production expenses incurred by the taxpayer if the taxpayer: 
(i) films a feature film, television film or television series, which is intended as programming for a national audience; and 
(ii) films in a qualified production facility which meets the minimum stage filming requirements.
(1.2) A qualified postproduction expense shall qualify for a 30% credit.
(2) A taxpayer that has received a grant under 12 Pa.C.S. § 4106 (relating to approval) shall not be eligible for a film production tax credit under this act for the same film.

(c) Qualified production facility.—To be considered a qualified production facility or qualified postproduction facility, the owner of a facility shall provide evidence to the department to verify the development or facility specifications and capital investment costs incurred for the facility so that the threshold amounts set in the definitions of “qualified production facility” and “qualified postproduction facility” are satisfied, and upon verification, the facility shall be registered by the department officially as a qualified production facility or qualified postproduction facility.

(d) Waiver.—The department may make a determination that the financial benefit to this Commonwealth resulting from the direct investment in or payments made to Pennsylvania facilities outweighs the benefit of maintaining the 60% requirement contained in the definition of “qualified film production expense.” If such determination is made, the department may waive the requirement that 60% of a film’s total production or postproduction expenses be comprised of Pennsylvania production expenses for a film, television film or television series that is intended as programming for a national audience and is filmed or produced in a qualified production facility or qualified postproduction facility if the taxpayer who has Pennsylvania production expenses of at least $30,000,000 per production meets the minimum stage filming requirements.


1 So in original; should probably be “1716–D” [72 P.S. § 8716.1].

Historical and Statutory Notes
Act 2012–85 legislation
Act 2012–85, § 16, rewrote the section, which prior thereto read:
“(a) Cap.—In no case shall the aggregate amount of tax credits awarded in any fiscal year under this article exceed $75,000,000.

(b) Individual limitations.—The following shall apply:
“(1) The aggregate amount of film production tax credits awarded by the department under section 1703–D(d) to a taxpayer for a film may not exceed 25% of the qualified film production expenses to be incurred.

(2) A taxpayer that has received a grant under 12 Pa.C.S. § 4106 (relating to approval) shall not be eligible for a film production tax credit under this act for the same film.”

Act 2016–84 legislation
Act 2016–84, § 28, in subsec. (a), in the introductory paragraph, inserted “Except for tax credits reissued under section 1761.1–D,” and substituted “this article” for “this article” and “$65,000,000” for “$60,000,000”; in subsec. (b)(1), inserted “or (1.2)” and substituted “section 1712–D(d)” for “section 1703–D(d);” added subsec. (b)(1.2); rewrote subsec. (c), which prior thereto read:
“(c) Qualified production facility.—To be considered a qualified production facility under subsection (b)(1.1), the owner of a facility shall provide evidence to the department to verify the development or facility specifications and capital improvement costs incurred for the facility so that the threshold amounts set in the definition of “qualified production facility” under section 1761.1–D are satisfied, and upon verification, the facility shall be registered by the department officially as a qualified production facility.”

Prior Law:
Renumbered from 72 P.S. § 8707–D in 2016.

Cross References
Reduction of tax credits, see 72 P.S. § 5902–E.

Library References
Taxation = 3517.
Westlaw Topic No. 371.

§ 8716.1–D. Reissuance of film production tax credits
Section 51(7) of Act 2016, July 13, P.L. 526, No. 84, provides that the addition by that Act of 72 P.S. § 8716.1–D shall apply to fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2017.

(a) Reissuance.—In any fiscal year, the department may reissue a tax credit which meets all of the following:

(1) The tax credit was approved under section 1712–D(b).1

(2) The contract was signed under section 1712–D(c).

(3) The tax credit was awarded and a certificate was issued under section 1712–D(d).

(b) Amount.—The amount of a tax credit to be reissued shall be calculated as the difference between the amounts in subsection (a)(1) and (3).

(c) Applicability.—This section shall apply to a tax credit awarded under this article in any fiscal year beginning after June 30, 2017.


Historical and Statutory Notes
Act 2016–84 legislation
Section 51(7) of Act 2016, July 13, P.L. 526, No. 84, provides that the addition by that Act of 72 P.S. § 8716.1–D shall apply to fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2017.

Cross References
Limitations on tax credits, see 72 P.S. § 8716–D.

§ 8717–D. Penalty
1 A taxpayer which claims a tax credit and fails to incur the amount of qualified film production expenses agreed to in section 1712–D(c)(3) for a film
in that taxable year shall repay to the Commonwealth the amount of the film production tax credit claimed under this subsection for the film.


172 P.S. § 8712–D.

Historical and Statutory Notes

Act 2016–84 legislation
Act 2016–84, § 29, substituted “section 1712–D(c)(3)” for “section 1703–D(c)(3)” and “this subsection” for “this article”.

Prior Laws:

Taxation 17563.
Westlaw Topic No. 371.
C.J.S. Taxation § 1929.

§ 8718–D. Pass-through entity

(a) General rule.—If a pass-through entity has any unused tax credit under section 1714–D,1 it may elect in writing, according to procedures established by the Department of Revenue, to transfer all or a portion of the credit to shareholders, members or partners in proportion to the share of the entity's distributive income to which the shareholder, member or partner is entitled.

(b) Limitation.—A pass-through entity and a shareholder, member or partner of a pass-through entity shall not claim the credit under subsection (a) for the same qualified film production expense.

(c) Application.—A shareholder, member or partner of a pass-through entity to whom a credit is transferred under subsection (a) shall immediately claim the credit in the taxable year in which the transfer is made. The shareholder, member or partner may not carry forward, carry back, obtain a refund of or sell or assign the credit.


172 P.S. § 8714–D.

Historical and Statutory Notes

Act 2016–84 legislation
Act 2016–84, § 29, in subsec. (a), substituted “section 1714–D” for “section 1705–D”.

Prior Laws:

Library References

Taxation 103485, 3517.
Westlaw Topic No. 371.
C.J.S. Taxation § 1846.

§ 8719–D. Department guidelines and regulations

The department shall develop written guidelines for the implementation of the provisions of this subsection. The guidelines shall be in effect until such time as the department promulgates regulations for the implementation of the provisions of this subsection. The department shall promulgate regulations for the implementation of this subsection within two years of the effective date of this section.


172 P.S. § 8720–D.

Historical and Statutory Notes

Act 2016–84 legislation
Act 2016–84, § 29, substituted “this subsection” for “this article”.

Prior Laws:

Taxation 103442.
Westlaw Topic No. 371.
C.J.S. Taxation § 1829.

§ 8720–D. Report to General Assembly

(a) General rule.—No later than June 1, 2008, and September 1 of each year thereafter, the Secretary of Community and Economic Development shall submit a report to the General Assembly summarizing the effectiveness of the tax credit provided by this subsection. The report shall include the name of the film produced, the names of all taxpayers utilizing the credit as of the date of the report and the amount of credits approved for, utilized by or sold or assigned by each taxpayer. The report may also include any recommendations for changes in the calculation or administration of the tax credit. The report shall be submitted to the chairman and minority chairman of the Appropriations and Finance Committees of the Senate and the chairman and minority chairman of the Appropriations and Finance Committees of the House of Representatives. In addition to the information set forth above, the report shall include the following information, which shall be separated by geographic location within this Commonwealth:

1. The amount of credits claimed during the fiscal year by film.
2. The total amount spent in this Commonwealth during the fiscal year by film.
3. The total amount of tax revenues generated by this Commonwealth during the fiscal year by film.
4. The total number of jobs created during the fiscal year by film, including the duration of the jobs.

(b) Public information.—Notwithstanding any law providing for the confidentiality of tax records, the information in the report shall be public information, and all report information shall be posted on the department’s Internet website.


172 P.S. § 8711–D.

Historical and Statutory Notes

Act 2016–84 legislation
Act 2016–84, § 29, in subsec. (a), substituted “this subsection” for “this article”.

Prior Laws:

Library References