

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

3615

HOUSE BILL NO. _____



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT GRANTING INCENTIVES TO FILIPINO FILMMAKERS WHO WERE GRANTED HONORS IN NOTABLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

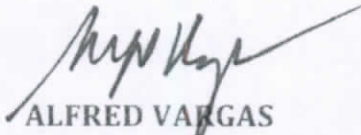
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Although foreign films were shown in the Philippines since the Spanish period, interest in the creation of local films was not given much attention by the Filipinos.

Independent Filipino cinema, has existed for almost as long as commercialized cinema, but this type of cinema has not been recognized as much, and thus has few historical accounts. Many of the independent films show actual happenings in the society using authentic voices of the people, but oftentimes, these films have been suppressed due to its revelations about social and political realities or marginalized due to its cinematography.

This bill aims to support the local film industry and further promote Filipino culture. This measure provides that P2,000,000.00 may be granted to a film director, main artist, screenplay, or technical support filmmaker personnel, who received the highest international awards in their categories. Whereas, P1,000,000.00 may also be granted for supporting artists or technicians who have garnered the highest award in their respective categories.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


ALFRED VARGAS

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Film Industry Incentives Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and support the development and growth of the local film industry, which includes both mainstream and independent films, produced by the Filipinos filmmakers or production entities that boldly articulate and freely interpret the Filipino experience with fresh insight and artistic integrity.

Towards this end, the State shall grant incentives to filmmakers or production entities based on merit to encourage the production of more high quality film projects for the local and global markets.

SEC. 3. Incentives for Filipinos Filmmakers. - The following incentives shall be granted to Filipino filmmakers or production entities, whose films merited the highest recognition for technical or artistic excellence in notable international film festivals, to wit:

- (a) Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00) to the filmmaker or production entity that produces an international award-winning full-length feature or documentary film;
- (b) Three million pesos (P3,000,000.00) to the filmmaker or production entity that produces an international award-winning short feature or documentary film;
- (c) Two million pesos (P2,000,000.00) shall be granted for the film director, main artist, screenplay, or for technical support filmmaker personnel including scriptwriter, cinematographer, editor, production designer, music scoring, sound director, audio or video technician category who received the highest international awards in their respective categories. Should there be more than one winner, the amount/reward allotted for this category shall be equally divided among the winners;
- (d) One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) to supporting artists or technicians who have garnered the highest award in their respective categories; and
- (e) An "A" grade from the Cinema Evaluation Board for the international award-winning films as stated in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section;

For purposes of this Act, "notable international film festivals" refer to international film festivals which have given recognition and rewards to high quality films for the last five (5) years and are well-known for their international profile, audience size, and the quality and breadth of their festival and industry programs.

SEC. 4. Eligibilities for Incentives. - To be eligible to receive the incentives under Section 3(a) of this Act, the international award-winning film must be made or produced by a Filipino filmmaker or production entity as the case may be. The total production budget for each of the full-length feature or documentary film must not exceed Ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00). The film length must be between ninety (90) to one hundred twenty (120) minutes.

To be eligible under Section 3(b) of this Act, the film must be made by a Filipino filmmaker or production entity. The total production budget for the short feature or documentary film must not exceed Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00). The film length must be less than ninety (90) minutes.

SEC. 5. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of the Film Development Council of the Philippines in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Film Development Council of the Philippines, in coordination with the Film Academy of the Philippines and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - all laws, decrees, letters of instructions, resolutions, orders, ordinance or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,