

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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2015 Regular Session

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Urges and requests the IATSE Local 478 to allow Baton Rouge, Louisiana to become a production center in its upcoming negotiations with the AMPTP.