



**The Office of State Representative Denise C. Garlick**  
**Chair, House Committee on Bills in the Third Reading**  
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The Honorable Mark J. Cusack  
Chair, Joint Committee on Revenue  
State House, Room 34  
24 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02133

January 4, 2022

Dear Chair Cusack, Chair Hinds, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I write in support of **H.2910**, *An Act addressing COVID-19 impacts on film production in the Commonwealth*, which I have filed this session. This bill would create necessary safeguards for the Commonwealth and production companies in the event of an extraordinary situation, such as the COVID-19 public health pandemic.

In March 2020, as the COVID-19 virus spread through our communities, Massachusetts exercised executive orders regarding both the public and private sector to protect the public health and safety of residents in the Commonwealth. For Massachusetts' creative economy, including film production, uncertainty surrounding appropriate safety measures led to a 4-month total shutdown. During the shutdown, the film production industry developed and applied strict health and safety protocols that aligned with public health official recommendations which allowed portions of the industry to resume production in July 2020 as part of the Phase III Reopening Plan. However, a statutory limitation in existing law created a barrier for members of the film industry to complete production within the Commonwealth's required timeline. Under Section 6 of Chapter 62 of the Massachusetts General Laws, film production projects in Massachusetts must conclude not more than 12 months from the date the production receives the sales tax exemption certificate. Due to the COVID-19 public health pandemic, film production projects that were underway prior to the Governor's declared public health emergency on March 10, 2020, experienced a condensed timeline as they were unable to continue production for 4 months.

H.2910 amends Section 6 of Chapter 62 of the General Laws by creating a "force majeure" clause that allows, but does not require, the Massachusetts Film Office to extend the 12-month production requirement in the event of a pandemic or other "act of God," such as an earthquake or hurricane. This legislation serves as an additional component to the Film Tax Credit to incentivize investments in the film industry in the Commonwealth.

I respectfully request the Committee grant H.2910 a favorable report. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. I wish to be helpful to you and your staff as you consider this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise C. Garlick".

**Denise C. Garlick**  
**State Representative**  
13<sup>th</sup> Norfolk District