

HOUSE BILL 353

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; ENACTING THE NEW MEXICO YOUTH FILM AND MEDIA DEVELOPMENT ACT; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT; CREATING THE YOUTH FILM AND MEDIA GRANT FUND; PROVIDING FOR GRANTS FROM THE FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "New Mexico Youth Film and Media Development Act".

SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the New Mexico Youth Film and Media Development Act:

A. "department" means the higher education department;

B. "fund" means the youth film and media grant fund; and

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1           C. "grant" means a grant by the department from the  
2 fund.

3           **SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] YOUTH FILM AND MEDIA GRANT**  
4 **PROGRAM--REQUIREMENTS.--**

5           A. The department shall:

6                   (1) coordinate with the New Mexico film  
7 office, New Mexico-based recipients of the film production tax  
8 credit, state higher educational institutions and film and  
9 media organizations to develop the youth film and media grant  
10 program and to ensure that the grant program aligns with the  
11 state's workforce development goals and the needs of the film  
12 industry;

13                   (2) establish and implement the youth film and  
14 media grant program to provide a grant to a person or an  
15 organization that has a primary mission of advancing filmmaking  
16 projects and programs that serve youth between twelve and  
17 eighteen years of age;

18                   (3) ensure that the youth film and media grant  
19 program prioritizes work with rural and tribal communities in  
20 the state to provide Native American youth and youth living in  
21 rural parts of the state with greater access to career  
22 opportunities in the film and television industry;

23                   (4) develop a grant application and review  
24 process; and

25                   (5) upon approval of an application, provide a

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1 grant to a person or an organization that, through the person's  
2 or organization's project or program:

3 (a) serves youth between twelve and  
4 eighteen years of age;

5 (b) serves at least one hundred schools  
6 across at least one-third of the counties in the state;

7 (c) engages with at least one-half of  
8 the Indian nations, tribes and pueblos located partially or  
9 entirely within the state; and

10 (d) provides the youth served with  
11 hands-on training and educational experiences in film, media  
12 and production.

13 B. A grant recipient shall submit an annual report  
14 to the department that provides detailed descriptions of:

15 (1) how the grant funds were spent;

16 (2) the number of youth participants served  
17 with the grant funds;

18 (3) the number of schools served with the  
19 grant funds;

20 (4) the Indian nations, tribes or pueblos  
21 engaged using the grant funds; and

22 (5) the impact of the grant-funded project or  
23 program on the youth participants' educational and professional  
24 opportunities.

25 SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] YOUTH FILM AND MEDIA GRANT

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1 FUND--CREATED.--

2 A. The "youth film and media grant fund" is created  
3 in the state treasury and shall be administered by the  
4 department. The fund consists of appropriations, gifts,  
5 grants, donations, income from investment of the fund and any  
6 other money distributed or otherwise allocated to the fund.  
7 Income from the fund shall be credited to the fund, and money  
8 in the fund shall not revert at the end of a fiscal year.

9 B. Money in the fund is appropriated to the  
10 department for the purposes of making grants pursuant to the  
11 New Mexico Youth Film and Media Development Act in a total  
12 amount not to exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars  
13 (\$250,000) per fiscal year. Disbursements from the fund shall  
14 be made by warrant of the secretary of finance and  
15 administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the secretary of  
16 higher education or the secretary's authorized representative.

17 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION.--One million five hundred  
18 thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) is appropriated from the general  
19 fund to the youth film and media grant fund for expenditure in  
20 fiscal year 2026 and subsequent fiscal years for making grants  
21 pursuant to the New Mexico Youth Film and Media Development  
22 Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the  
23 end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

24 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
25 provisions of this act is July 1, 2025.

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