


'14 JUL 28 A8:57

SENATE
S. B. 2325

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Poe

**AN ACT
SUPPORTING THE PRODUCTION OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENT FILMS BY
PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO FILMMAKERS WHO ARE GIVEN HONORS IN
NOTABLE INTERNATIONAL FILM COMPETITIONS**

Explanatory Note

The 1987 Philippine Constitution enshrined some of the most note-worthy guarantees recognizing outstanding Filipino intellectual property including cinema:

- Article XIV, Section 14 provides that “The State shall foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle in unity in diversity on a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression.”
- Article XIV, Section 15 states that “Arts and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State. The State shall converse, promote, and popularize the nation’s historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.”

In recent years, the production of independent films by our esteemed Filipino filmmakers has been flourishing. In fact, several cinematic works were critically acclaimed while actors and directors had already been recognized in the international arena, including the prestigious Cannes International Film Festival, Venice International Film Festival, San Sebastian International Film Festival, and the British Independent Film Awards, as well as appearances and screenings in Toronto, Utah, Brussels, New York, Warsaw and London.

For its part, the Philippines, through the ten-year old Cinemalaya, CinemaOne, Sineng Pambansa and other indie film festivals that screen short films and full-length titles, have its fair share in encouraging the creation of locally produced independent productions. These efforts by the Cultural Center of the Philippines and other film groups put Philippine cinemas back to their glory days. Recently, big names in the movie industry were drawn to independent films, the King of Comedy Dolphy through “Markova” (Best Film, Brussels International Film Festival), Vilma Santos in 2013 via “Ekstra” (Cinemalaya) and Nora Aunor who joins for the first time this year, is headlining the tale of whistleblower and their tragedy, in “Hustisya” (Cinemalaya).


This bill seeks to further promote the production of Filipino indie films and provide support to filmmakers, including the aspiring ones and students, who operate on meager budgets to produce their artistic craft.

In view of the notable works of independent Filipino filmmakers and in order to show support to them, approval of this measure is fervently sought.


GRACE POE

14 JUL 28 A9:01

SENATE
S. B. No. 2325

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Poe

AN ACT

**SUPPORTING THE PRODUCTION OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENT FILMS BY
PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO FILMMAKERS WHO ARE GIVEN HONORS IN
NOTABLE INTERNATIONAL FILM COMPETITIONS**

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

SECTION 1. Short title. – This act shall be known as the “Philippine
Independent Film Incentives Act of 2014.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote and
support the development and growth of the local film industry, in general, and the
production of independent films, in particular. The State shall endeavor to discover,
encourage, and honor the cinematic works of Filipino filmmakers that boldly articulate
and freely interpret the Filipino experience with fresh insight and artistic integrity.

SECTION 3. Grants for Award-Winning Films. – To achieve this law’s purpose,
Philippine independent films that have been awarded the Best Film prize or its
equivalent including those that merited recognition for technical excellence in respected
international film competitions or cinema festivals shall be given the following
incentives:

3.1 A grant of Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) to the film production or entity
that produces the award winning full-length feature or documentary film;

3.2 A grant of Three Million Pesos (P3,000,000.00) to the film production or entity
that produces the award winning short feature or documentary film;

3.3 Full tax exemption relevant to the screening of the film and its commercial
exhibition, including those levied by local government units;

3.4 The award-winning film shall be considered and shall have the honor of
being give an automatic rating of an “A” film being granted by the Cinema Evaluation
Board.

1 **SECTION 4. Eligibility for Grants.** – To be eligible for a grant under Section 3.1.,
2 films must be made by Filipino filmmakers who have not yet directed more than three
3 (3) full-length commercial feature films. The total production budget for the full-length
4 feature or documentary film should not exceed Three Million Pesos (P3,000,000.00). The
5 film length should be between 90 to 120 minutes.
6

7 To be eligible for a grant under Section 3.2., the film must be made by a Filipino
8 filmmaker. The total production budget for the short feature or documentary film
9 should not exceed One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00). The film length should not be
10 more than 20 minutes (no minimum length).
11

12 All films should not have been produced by commercial producers to guarantee
13 the filmmakers' creative control over the film.
14

15 **SECTION 5. Implementing Agency.** – The National Commission for Culture
16 and the Arts (NCCA) is hereby authorized and directed to adopt a system to implement
17 and carry out the provisions of this act. The NCCA shall, within sixty (60) days from
18 effectivity of this Act, promulgate rules and regulations to carry out and enforce the
19 provision of this Act.
20

21 **SECTION 6. Appropriations.** – A special fund amounting to Fifty Million Pesos
22 (P50,000,000.00) which shall be sourced from the funds of the Philippine Amusement
23 and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is hereby created. Other amounts as may be
24 necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, are hereby authorized to be
25 appropriated from the National Treasury.
26

27 **SECTION 7. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part hereof is held
28 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the act or the provision not otherwise
29 affected shall remain valid and subsiding.
30

31 **SECTION 8. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
32 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to
33 or inconsistent with the provision of this Act, is hereby repealed, modified or amended
34 accordingly.
35

36 **SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
37 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,