



Two bills have been filed this session that would do away with Texas Film Commission and the Texas Music Office completely: Senate Bill 99 by Sen. Bob Hall, R-Canton and House Bill 779 by Rep. Matt Shaheen, R-West Plano.

The Society of Talent & Entertainment Professionals (STEP) and The Texas Music Alliance (TMA) strongly oppose these bills. The members of STEP and TMA as well as thousands of Texas Music related businesses have all been contacted to make them aware of these bills. We intend to strongly oppose Sen. Bob Hall and Rep. Matt Shaheen's bills with petitions of unfavorable bills that adversely affect the growth and vitality of Texas music and music related businesses throughout our state.

The Music Industry throughout Texas generates economic development and also benefits Texans with thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars of music revenue as well as international branding that is a key factor for companies outside the music industry to compete for high quality workforce recruitment, and also attracts technology companies and other employers to locate to Texas.

The Texas Music Office (TMO) assists and promotes the development of the music industry in the state by informing musicians, music professionals and the public about the resources available in the state for the perpetuation and promotion of the Texas Music Industry.

As professional musicians and music professionals in the Texas Music Industry, and fans of Texas music, we ask you to stand against the abolishment of the Texas Music Office, in our opinion, this would be a mistake that would affect ourselves, the quality of music, and the music business in Texas.

Sincerely, Brooks Kendall CTEP

Legislative Director - The Society of Talent & Entertainment Professionals (STEP)

## **Over view of bills**

85(R) HB 779 Authored by: Shaheen and 85(R) SB 99 Authored by Hall

Relating to the abolishment of the Music, Film, Television, and Multimedia Office in the office of the governor and the moving image industry incentive program.

(a) The Music, Film, Television, and Multimedia Office in the office of the governor is abolished.

(b) All records and other property in the custody of the Music, Film, Television, and Multimedia Office are transferred to the office of the governor.

(c) All unobligated and unexpended appropriations of the Music, Film, Television, and Multimedia Office lapse.

(d) All donations, gifts, and grants made to the Music, Film, Television, and Multimedia Office shall be transferred

This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

These bills would eliminate the office and therefore its ability to monitor the growth and promotion of the Texas Music Industry.

We feel that this would be a net negative for music industry here in Texas to say nothing of the negative impact on the film industry.

We are also in support of Funding the Moving Image Industry Incentive Program (Film, Television, Commercial and Video Game Incentives) at the \$70 million level. Current biennium funding is \$24 million. Film incentives are vital for keeping the film business thriving in Texas.