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Blagojevich signs film incentive measure

After a couple of weeks of uncertainty, Illinois has a new tax incentive aimed at luring films and TV series to the state. Embattled Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed the measure into law Monday.

It increases the tax credit to 30 percent from 20 percent and has no expiration date. Illinois has enjoyed a heightened Hollywood profile as of late: "The Dark Knight"; Michael Mann's forthcoming "Public Enemies," with Johnny Depp as John Dillinger; and Patrick Swayze's FBI television drama "The Beast" all have filmed in the state in the last two years.

"With over 40 states providing film incentives, Illinois' strengthened film tax credit will go a long way in helping Illinois to maintain an edge and keep us competitive against other major film production areas," Betsy Steinberg, managing director of the Illinois Film Office, said in a statement.

"The credit puts thousands of people to work and brings in greater revenues for the state."