

# Chicago Tribune

By Robert K. Elder  
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## **Illinois finds permanence in film incentive**

It's not the Bat Signal, but it's close.

A new bill aimed at attracting more movies and TV series to Illinois passed both the state House and Senate on Thursday. The measure approves a 30 percent tax incentive, which supporters say directly competes with Michigan's film tax rebate of 42 percent. The new measure does not expire, leaving the door open for TV series to schedule long productions in the state.

"I think it'll be great to bring the movie business back," said state Sen. Rickey Hendon (D-Chicago), a longtime sponsor of the legislation. "Right now, we're losing massive jobs to Detroit."

Betsy Steinberg, managing director of the Illinois Film Office, said the country as a whole is in a production lull.

"Studios are not quite ramped up again," she said. "Give it a few more weeks, and studios are going to start green-lighting things."

Illinois recently hosted movies such as "The Dark Knight," "Nothing Like the Holidays" and director Steven Soderbergh's "The Informant." FBI drama "The Beast," starring Patrick Swayze, is currently wrapping its first season in Chicago. The new incentive becomes law when Gov. Rod Blagojevich, a supporter, signs the bill.