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**Illinois' 30% tax credit is a done deal!  
No more waiting- Gov. Blagojevich signs the bill into law**

Without the usual fanfare of movie stars and photo flashes, Gov. Rod Blagojevich quietly made his first order of business Monday morning the signing of the Illinois Tax Credit into law.

The credit applies to money spent for Illinois goods and services, including wages paid to Illinois residents.

Many other states, most notably Michigan, had outpaced Illinois' previous 20% tax incentive. The new 30% tax credit is expected to reopen doors to a surge of Hollywood feature film production by putting the state on equal footing in "the incentives arms race."

Removed from the bill this year was the yearly "Sunset Clause," which mandated retiring the incentives on Dec. 31 of every year and restarting the enactment process on Jan. 1 of the following year.

The bill passed in both chambers of the Statehouse. SB 1981 was sponsored by Sen. Rickey Hendon (D-Chicago) and Rep. Frank Mautino (D-Spring Valley), who replaced Rep. Ken Dunkin, one of the incentive's earliest sponsors.

As it now stands, the veto-proof bill will not come up for renewal until 2014. The bill automatically would have become law Jan. 24 had Blagojevich delayed its signing for any length of time.

In 2007, the incentives helped account for revenues of \$125 million from Hollywood feature film production, and \$30 million from commercials. Each movie dollar spent in Illinois has a 2.5 times trickle-down effect on the state economy.

Even with the six months loss of business in 2008, due to Blagojevich's delay in bill signing, Illinois is poised for a comeback in 2009.

The higher tax credit, coupled with the established and respected labor and talent pools, its infrastructure and wide variety of locations, will put it high among the 40 states seeking lucrative Hollywood location business.

Much of the credit for winning the improved incentive goes to the Illinois Production Alliance. It is the only film organization that funds lobbyists who continuously work on the film industry's behalf in Springfield.