



MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATE
SENATOR JAMES E. TIMILTY
(BRISTOL - NORFOLK DISTRICT)



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**SENATOR TIMILTY TAKES THE LEAD TO BRING FILMMAKING
INDUSTRY TO MASSACHUSETTS**

BILL WILL PROVIDE TAX INCENTIVES FOR MOVIES PRODUCED IN THE COMMONWEALTH

Boston--Senator James E. Timilty (D-Walpole) is pleased to announce a motion picture bill that will give the film industry tax incentives, comparable to those given by other states to reduce the cost of filming in Massachusetts, thus, inducing movie making in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and aiding the local economy.

"Massachusetts, its history, natural beauty and specially trained stage workers and technicians, have much to offer the filmmaking industry. Films are rarely produced here, however," Senator Timilty said. "We want an even playing field when it comes to producing jobs and revenues in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This makes sense to the person in the street and to me. This legislation reflects a 'smart government' approach I try to adopt every opportunity I get in order to serve my district and the Commonwealth as a whole. Massachusetts has lost out in the past due to simple economic factors—other states offer tax breaks and other incentives that reduce the costs of filming, and we have not. It's time to quit this losing agenda and to lure this and other industries to Massachusetts with all due haste," the Senator continued. "Massachusetts can not be too aggressive about producing revenue. The movie industry belongs here," the Senator continued, "Case closed."

The film industry is an \$8 trillion dollar a year industry and the bill, which is expected to be passed by Governor Romney, will make Massachusetts a major destination for movie producers. Executives from Disney Studios have stated that if the bill becomes a law this session, they will bring several projects to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as soon as next year.

The bill would exempt filmmakers from the state's sales tax if the purchases made in connection with the film are above \$250,000 and it will give employment tax credits equaling 20 percent of the payroll, excluding salaries of \$1 million or more. Students at accredited film schools can qualify without meeting the \$250,000 of spending.

In order to receive tax credits the Massachusetts production expenses must exceed 50% of the total production expenses or at least 50% of the "principal photography" must occur in the Commonwealth.

In 2001, 2003 and 2004 the major studios spent no more than 4 weeks in any year filming in Massachusetts.

"The motion picture industry has essentially left the state in the last several years and that is tragic," Timilty said.

The bill also provides tax exemptions to student filmmakers at accredited film schools.

"Not only are we benefiting current movie producers, but we are helping pave the way for the next generation of filmmakers also," Senator Timilty added, "This is a big economic win for Massachusetts".

Timilty (D-Walpole) is in his first term as Senator representing the Bristol Norfolk District. The district is comprised of ten communities including Walpole, Dover, Medfield, parts of Sharon, Foxborough, Mansfield, Norton, parts of Attleboro, Seekonk, and Rehoboth. Senator Timilty is the Chair of the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, and the Vice-Chair of Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development. Timilty is a member of the committees on Small Business and Community Development, Elder Affairs, and Transportation.

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