

Film/TV Tax Incentive Legislation Passes Massachusetts State Senate

November 17, 2005

We are very happy to report that yesterday, November 16, the Massachusetts Senate passed the Film & TV Tax Incentive bill that we have been working to get enacted. There was no roll call vote. From the Senate Gallery we were able to hear Senator Jim Timilty and Senator Cynthia Creem, the principal sponsors of the bill in the Senate, present the bill in yesterday's session - citing the direct and immediate impact the legislation will have in creating jobs for the workers and businesses in our production community. This is a comprehensive bill with a sales, employment, and production tax credit that is very competitive with similar laws in other states.

The bill will now go to the Governor for signature. All indications are that he will sign the bill into law. Once signed, the bill will take effect January 1, 2006. We will continue to monitor the situation and if calls need to be made to the Governor's office, we will let AFTRA and SAG members know via the AFTRA/SAG Hotline.

If you live and/or work in Massachusetts, we urge you to call your Senators to thank them for supporting this important piece of legislation. This is especially true if your Senator is either James Timilty or Cynthia Creem, both of whom gave impassioned speeches on the Senate floor yesterday on the importance of the bill and our industry. Even if you do not live in their jurisdiction, calling Senators Timilty and Creem and thanking them for their support would be greatly appreciated. Phone numbers for individual Senators can be found at:
<http://www.mass.gov/legis/memmenus.htm>

Our thanks to all of you who helped move this important bill through the legislative process with your calls and emails. Your support has been, and will continue to be, important to ensure our success.