



MISSOURI SENATE  
JEFFERSON CITY

Jason Crowell  
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## **Sen. Crowell Advances Economy-Growing Filmmaking Incentive Plan**

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Jefferson City – State Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, on Monday February 26, 2007, presented Senate Bill 400 before the Senate Ways and Means Committee on the merits of his legislation expanding Missouri’s tax incentive plan for filmmakers. Senate Bill 400 increases eligibility in the film production tax credit program by lowering the participation threshold from \$300,000 to \$50,000 in projected in-state production costs for qualified film projects less than thirty minutes in length. For longer films, projected in-state expenditures of \$100,000 or more can qualify for the tax credits. Qualifying film production companies can earn tax credits equal to up to half of their in-state expenditures on the project. Film companies can then sell these credits through brokers to people or entities owing tax to Missouri.

An equally important component to Sen. Crowell’s legislation is his proposed ten-fold increase in annual funding for the program, from \$1.5 million to \$10.5 million.

“Filmmaking is a job-creating industry,” Sen. Crowell said. “What my legislation does is further spur jobs to the Show-Me State by making the program available to more participants through broadened eligibility requirements and significantly increased overall program funding.”

While appearing before the Senate Ways and Means Committee yesterday, Sen. Crowell pointed to several recent successful projects filmed in Missouri, including “Killshot,” a movie partially set and filmed in Cape Girardeau. The production ultimately qualified for some \$350,000 in filmmaking tax credits.

“This project, which infused close to three quarters of a million dollars into the Cape-area’s economy, is one of any number of examples showing that by investing a dollar, Missourians can gain two dollars.” Sen Crowell said. “Expanding the program will expand the industry’s activity in the Show-Me State while growing local, regional and state economies.”

Sen. Crowell also noted that film and art students from Southeast Missouri State University have benefited by the rise in filmmaking activity in the region.

“What we’re finding are professors taking their students out to various shooting locations and learning firsthand the craft of film production,” Sen. Crowell said. So I would say let’s add education to the list of positives for drawing film shoots to Missouri.”

Sen. Crowell predicted this student involvement will increase significantly when the River Campus, home to the School of Visual and Performing Arts, opens later this year on the Campus of Southeast Missouri State University.

A passing vote from the Senate panel moves Sen. Crowell’s incentive plan to the Senate floor for debate by the full body. Joint Senate and House approval moves the proposal to the governor’s desk.

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