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AP photo of actor Jamie Foxx who was recently filming "Law Abiding Citizen" in Philadelphia

Posted: Friday, 08 May 2009 8:38AM

New Pa. Budget May Cut Tax Breaks for Feature Films

by KYW's Tony Romeo

Funding for Pennsylvania's efforts to lure film productions to the state is in jeopardy as the result of a budget approved by the state senate and sent to the house this week.

The budget approved by the state senate eliminates funding for the state film offices and likely would reduce the state's tax credit for filmmakers. Erik Arneson, spokesman for the senate Republican leader:

"Under the budget that Senate has passed, it's likely that every tax credit program in Pennsylvania, including the film tax credit and many others, would be reduced."

Currently, the film tax credit is \$75 million. The total for all tax credits in the current budget is \$400 million. The Senate has voted cut that by \$250 million next fiscal year, but Arneson says the Senate has not specified how those cuts will be distributed.

Tom Muldoon is president of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau:

"I think there's a little bit of politics mixed into all this."

Indeed. There will be a lot more politicking and horsetrading before the state budget and any proposed cuts are finalized.

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