



Movie Incentives Hurting Michigan?

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Incentives-- they're supposed to be at least part of the answer to some of Michigan's problems, but some of those incentives simply aren't working says the Michigan Education Association and the Anderson Economic Group.

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"No one seemed to know what they were or let alone how effective any of them may have been," Lou Battaglieri of the Michigan Education Association says.

The MEA commissioned a study by the Anderson Economic Group that says of the 36 incentives in the state, those involving manufacturing work. □

"We're out to take a look at those incentives that are actually creating jobs," Battaglieri explains.

But the lights and cameras in area towns that everyone has been so excited about, fall short.

"Those that subsidize film operations prove to be ineffective," Patrick Anderson of AEG says.

Anderson's study says every film job costs the state nearly 50 thousand dollars and that job isn't even guaranteed to stay here until the end of the month.

"It's an enormous cost with no long-term benefit," Anderson explains.

So instead, he suggests using that funding elsewhere.

"Let's save the money there and either plow it back into funding more of our government services where we are having difficulty doing that now, or reducing tax burdens on businesses, or both," Anderson suggests.

And coming off the heels of several schools closing, the MEA thinks the answer is to give the money to schools.

"There's no greater investment in society that we can make than our investment into education," Battaglieri says.

The Governor's Office chimes in saying that the concept of movies in Michigan just came about last year and that anything that becomes successful takes some time.

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