

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE B

ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ADDING CHAPTER 5.180 TO THE MENDOCINO COUNTY CODE ENTITLED THE "MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT ACT" ADOPTING A COUNTY TRANSACTIONS (SALES) AND USE TAX FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF FUNDING IMPROVED SERVICES, TREATMENT AND FACILITIES FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

NOW, THEREFORE, The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Ordains as Follows:

Section 1. Chapter 5.180 is added to the Mendocino County Code to read as follows:

"MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT ACT"

Section 5.180.010. Findings.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino makes the following findings:

- A. State law authorizes the voters of the County to adopt a special sales tax with a two-thirds vote of the electorate.
B. The California Elections Code permits submission to the voters, without petition, any measure relating to the enactment of an ordinance.
C. An ordinance adopting a Transactions (Sales) and Use Tax on retail transactions in the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the County of Mendocino is appropriate and necessary in order to generate revenue that will be placed in a special Mental Health Treatment Fund entirely dedicated to funding improved services, treatment, and facilities for persons with behavioral health conditions. Further, it is appropriate to submit this ordinance directly to a vote of the electorate.

Section 5.180.020. Title.

This ordinance shall be known as the "Mental Health Treatment Act." This ordinance provides for a Special Transactions (Sales) and Use Tax and shall be applicable to the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the County of Mendocino, which shall be referred to herein as "County."

Section 5.180.030. Operative Date.

"Operative Date" means the first day of the first calendar quarter commencing more than 110 days after the adoption of this ordinance, the date of such adoption being as set forth below.

Section 5.180.040. Specific Purpose.

Mendocino County is committed to improving residents' lives and the public's safety by strategically evaluating and enhancing resources for mental health treatment. Therefore, this ordinance is adopted to achieve the following, among other purposes, and directs that the provisions herein be interpreted in order to accomplish these purposes:

- A. Provide for assistance in the diagnosis, treatment and recovery from mental illness and addiction by developing: 1) a psychiatric facility and other behavioral health facilities; and 2) a regional behavioral health training facility to be used by behavioral health professionals, public safety and other first responders.
B. Provide for the necessary infrastructure to support and stabilize individuals with behavioral health conditions, including addiction and neurological disorders.
C. Conduct an independent annual audit and develop a performance management strategy which measures the effectiveness of the improved services, treatment and facilities and assesses the impact of the "Mental Health Treatment Act."
D. Create a politically independent "Mental Health Treatment Act" Citizen's Oversight Committee which shall review the independent annual audit of expenditures and the performance

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management plan for compliance with the Specific Purpose of this ordinance. This committee shall also provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on the implementation of this ordinance. The committee shall be comprised of eleven members, including a citizen selected by each member of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, a Member of the Behavioral Health Advisory Board, the County Mental Health Director or his/her representative, the County Auditor or his/her representative, the Mendocino County Chief Executive Officer or his/her representative, the Sheriff or his/her representative, and a representative of the Mendocino Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is encouraged to include professional experts such as psychiatric and health practitioners, first responders and other mental health professionals among the five committee members selected by the Board. The meetings of this committee shall be open to the public and shall be held in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, California's open meeting law.

- D. Create a Mental Health Treatment Fund entirely dedicated to fund improved services, treatment and facilities for persons with mental health conditions into which 100% of the revenue from this measure shall be deposited.
E. For a period of five (5) years a maximum of 75% of the revenue deposited into the Mental Health Treatment Fund may be used for facilities, with not less than 25% dedicated to services and treatment; thereafter 100% of all revenue deposited into the Mental Health Treatment Fund shall be used for ongoing operations, services and treatment.

Section 5.180.050. Purpose.

This ordinance is adopted to achieve the following, among other purposes, and directs that the provisions hereof be interpreted in order to accomplish those purposes:

- A. To impose a retail transactions and use tax in accordance with the provisions of Part 1.6 (commencing with Section 7251) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code and Section 7285.5 of Part 1.7 of Division 2 which authorizes the County to adopt this tax ordinance which shall be operative if a (2/3) majority of the electors voting on the measure vote to approve the imposition of the tax at an election called for that purpose.
B. To adopt a retail transactions and use tax ordinance that incorporates provisions identical to those of the Sales and Use Tax Law of the State of California insofar as those provisions are not inconsistent with the requirements and limitations contained in Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.
C. To adopt a retail transactions and use tax ordinance that imposes a tax and provides a measure therefor that can be administered and collected by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration in a manner that adapts itself as fully as practicable to, and requires the least possible deviation from, the existing statutory and administrative procedures followed by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration in administering and collecting the California State Sales and Use Taxes.
D. To adopt a retail transactions and use tax ordinance that can be administered in a manner that will be, to the greatest degree possible, consistent with the provisions of Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code; minimize the cost of collecting the transactions and use taxes; and at the same time, minimize the burden of record keeping upon persons subject to taxation under the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 5.180.060. Contract with State.

Prior to the Operative Date, the County shall contract with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration to perform all

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functions incident to the administration and operation of this transactions and use tax ordinance; provided, that if the County shall not have contracted with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration prior to the operative date, it shall nevertheless so contract and in such a case the Operative Date shall be the first day of the first calendar quarter following the execution of such a contract.

Section 5.180.070. Transactions Tax Rate.

For the privilege of selling tangible personal property at retail, a one-half cent (0.5%) tax for five (5) years after the Operative Date of this Chapter; and one-eighth cent (0.125%) tax, which will continue unless or until the tax is repealed by a majority vote in a general election, is hereby imposed upon all retailers in the incorporated and unincorporated territory of the County of the gross receipts of any retailer from the sale of all tangible personal property sold at retail in said territory on and after the operative date of this ordinance.

Section 5.180.080. Place of Sale.

For the purposes of this ordinance, all retail sales are consummated at the place of business of the retailer unless the tangible personal property sold is delivered by the retailer or his agent to an out-of-state destination or to a common carrier for delivery to an out-of-state destination. The gross receipts from such sales shall include delivery charges, when such charges are subject to the state sales and use tax, regardless of the place to which delivery is made. In the event a retailer has no permanent place of business in the State or has more than one place of business, the place or places at which the retail sales are consummated shall be determined under rules and regulations to be prescribed and adopted by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration.

Section 5.180.090. Use Tax Rate.

An excise tax is hereby imposed on the storage, use or other consumption in the County of tangible personal property purchased from any retailer on and after the operative date of this ordinance for storage, use or other consumption in said territory at the rate of one-half cent (0.5%) for five (5) years after the Operative Date of this Chapter; and one-eighth cent (0.125%), which will continue unless or until the tax is repealed by a majority vote in a general election, of the sales price of the property. The sales price shall include delivery charges when such charges are subject to state sales or use tax regardless of the place to which delivery is made.

Section 5.180.100. Adoption of Provisions of State Law.

Except as otherwise provided in this ordinance and except insofar as they are inconsistent with the provisions of Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, all of the provisions of Part 1 (commencing with Section 6001) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code are hereby adopted and made a part of this ordinance as though fully set forth herein.

Section 5.180.110. Limitations on Adoption of State Law and Collection of Use Taxes.

In adopting the provisions of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code:

- A. Wherever the State of California is named or referred to as the taxing agency, the name of this County shall be substituted therefor. However, the substitution shall not be made when:
 - 1. The word "State" is used as a part of the title of the State Controller, State Treasurer, California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, State Treasury, or the Constitution of the State of California;
 - 2. The result of that substitution would require action to be taken by or against this County or any agency, officer, or employee thereof rather than by or against the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, in performing the functions incident to the administration or operation of this Ordinance.
 - 3. In those sections, including, but not necessarily limited

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to sections referring to the exterior boundaries of the State of California, where the result of the substitution would be to:

- a. Provide an exemption from this tax with respect to certain sales, storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property which would not otherwise be exempt from this tax while such sales, storage, use or other consumption remain subject to tax by the State under the provisions of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, or;
 - b. Impose this tax with respect to certain sales, storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property which would not be subject to tax by the state under the said provision of that code.
4. In Sections 6701, 6702 (except in the last sentence thereof), 6711, 6715, 6737, 6797 or 6828 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.
- B. The word "County" shall be substituted for the word "State" in the phrase "retailer engaged in business in this State" in Section 6203 and in the definition of that phrase in Section 6203.

Section 5.180.120. Permit Not Required.

If a seller's permit has been issued to a retailer under Section 6067 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, an additional transactor's permit shall not be required by this ordinance.

Section 5.180.130. Exemptions and Exclusions.

- A. There shall be excluded from the measure of the transactions tax and the use tax the amount of any sales tax or use tax imposed by the State of California or by any city, county, or county pursuant to the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law or the amount of any state-administered transactions or use tax.
- B. There are exempted from the computation of the amount of transactions tax the gross receipts from:
 - 1. Sales of tangible personal property, other than fuel or petroleum products, to operators of aircraft to be used or consumed principally outside the County in which the sale is made and directly and exclusively in the use of such aircraft as common carriers of persons or property under the authority of the laws of this State, the United States, or any foreign government.
 - 2. Sales of property to be used outside the County which is shipped to a point outside the County, pursuant to the contract of sale, by delivery to such point by the retailer or his agent, or by delivery by the retailer to a carrier for shipment to a consignee at such point. For the purposes of this paragraph, delivery to a point outside the County shall be satisfied:
 - a. With respect to vehicles (other than commercial vehicles) subject to registration pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 4000) of Division 3 of the Vehicle Code, aircraft licensed in compliance with Section 21411 of the Public Utilities Code, and undocumented vessels registered under Division 3.5 (commencing with Section 9840) of the Vehicle Code by registration to an out-of-County address and by a declaration under penalty of perjury, signed by the buyer, stating that such address is, in fact, his or her principal place of residence; and
 - b. With respect to commercial vehicles, by registration to a place of business out-of-County and declaration under penalty of perjury, signed by the buyer, that the vehicle will be operated from that address.
 - 3. The sale of tangible personal property if the seller is obligated to furnish the property for a fixed price pursuant to a contract entered into prior to the operative date of this ordinance.

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- 4. A lease of tangible personal property which is a continuing sale of such property, for any period of time for which the lessor is obligated to lease the property for an amount fixed by the lease prior to the operative date of this ordinance.
 - 5. For the purposes of subparagraphs (3) and (4) of this section, the sale or lease of tangible personal property shall be deemed not to be obligated pursuant to a contract or lease for any period of time for which any party to the contract or lease has the unconditional right to terminate the contract or lease upon notice, whether or not such right is exercised.
- C. There are exempted from the use tax imposed by this ordinance, the storage, use or other consumption in this County of tangible personal property:
- 1. The gross receipts from the sale of which have been subject to a transactions tax under any state-administered transactions and use tax ordinance.
 - 2. Other than fuel or petroleum products purchased by operators of aircraft and used or consumed by such operators directly and exclusively in the use of such aircraft as common carriers of persons or property for hire or compensation under a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued pursuant to the laws of this State, the United States, or any foreign government. This exemption is in addition to the exemptions provided in Sections 6366 and 6366.1 of the Revenue and Taxation Code of the State of California.
 - 3. If the purchaser is obligated to purchase the property for a fixed price pursuant to a contract entered into prior to the operative date of this ordinance.
 - 4. If the possession of, or the exercise of any right or power over, the tangible personal property arises under a lease which is a continuing purchase of such property for any period of time for which the lessee is obligated to lease the property for an amount fixed by a lease prior to the operative date of this ordinance.
 - 5. For the purposes of subparagraphs (3) and (4) of this section, storage, use, or other consumption, or possession of, or exercise of any right or power over, tangible personal property shall be deemed not to be obligated pursuant to a contract or lease for any period of time for which any party to the contract or lease has the unconditional right to terminate the contract or lease upon notice, whether or not such right is exercised.
 - 6. Except as provided in subparagraph (7), a retailer engaged in business in the County shall not be required to collect use tax from the purchaser of tangible personal property, unless the retailer ships or delivers the property into the County or participates within the County in making the sale of the property, including, but not limited to, soliciting or receiving the order, either directly or indirectly, at a place of business of the retailer in the County or through any representative, agent, canvasser, solicitor, subsidiary, or person in the County under the authority of the retailer.
 - 7. "A retailer engaged in business in the County" shall also include any retailer of any of the following: vehicles subject to registration pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 4000) of Division 3 of the Vehicle code, aircraft licensed in compliance with Section 21411 of the

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Public Utilities Code, or undocumented vessels registered under Division 3.5 (commencing with Section 9840) of the Vehicle Code. That retailer shall be required to collect use tax from any purchaser who registers or licenses the vehicle, vessel, or aircraft at an address in the County.

- D. Any person subject to use tax under this ordinance may credit against that tax any transactions tax or reimbursement for transactions tax paid to a district imposing, or retailer liable for a transactions tax pursuant to Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code with respect to the sale to the person of the property the storage, use or other consumption of which is subject to the use tax.

Section 5.180.140. Amendments.

All amendments subsequent to the effective date of this ordinance to Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code relating to sales and use taxes and which are not inconsistent with Part 1.6 and Part 1.7 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and all amendments to Part 1.6 and Part 1.7 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, shall automatically become a part of this ordinance, provided however, that no such amendment shall operate so as to affect the rate of tax imposed by this ordinance.

Section 5.180.150. Enjoining Collection Forbidden.

No injunction or writ of mandate or other legal or equitable process shall issue in any suit, action or proceeding in any court against the State or the County, or against any officer of the State or the County, to prevent or enjoin the collection under this ordinance, or Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, of any tax or any amount of tax required to be collected.

Section 5.180.160. Severability.

If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Section 5.180.170. Use of Tax Proceeds.

The expenditure plan required by Revenue and Taxation Code section 7285.5 for the revenue from the tax approved by this Chapter is set forth in this ordinance, which was approved by the qualified voters of Mendocino County at the November 7, 2017, election. All proceeds of the taxes levied and imposed hereunder shall be used for the purposes stated in the Initiative.

Section 5.180.180. Election Costs.

Payment for the costs of the election shall be the responsibility of the County. If the election results in approval of the ordinance by at least a 2/3 vote of those voters voting on the ordinance, the County shall be reimbursed for the cost of the election from the proceeds of the tax.

Section 5.180.190. Effective Date.

This ordinance relates to the levying and collecting of the County transactions and use taxes and shall take effect immediately.

Section 2. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT. The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that this ordinance is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.; "CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. section 15000 et seq.) sections 15060(c)(3) and 15378(b)(4), as the ballot measure for which this ordinance is providing enacting language involves a government funding mechanism and related fiscal activities that does not involve any commitment to any specific project.

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Section 3. VOTER APPROVAL. This ordinance shall be effective only if approved by two-thirds of the voters voting on this measure at the November 7, 2017, election, and after the vote is certified by the Board of Supervisors. If this measure is approved by the voters, this ordinance shall take effect on the Effective Date and become operative on the Operative Date, as those dates are defined herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a four-fifths vote of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, State of California, on this 1st day of August, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Brown, McCowen, Croskey, Gjerde,
and Hamburg
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared the Ordinance passed and adopted and **SO ORDERED**.

s/John McCowen
JOHN McCOWEN, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: CARMEL J. ANGELO
Clerk of the Board
s/Nicole French
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Katharine L. Elliott, County Counsel
s/K L Elliott

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS
MEASURE B**

An Ordinance to Add the “Mental Health Treatment Act” to the Mendocino County Code Adopting a Sales Tax for the Specific Purpose of Funding Services, Treatment and Facilities for Persons with Mental Illness or Drug Addiction

This ballot measure seeks voter approval of an ordinance adding the “Mental Health Treatment Act” to the Mendocino County Code adopting a sales tax for the specific purpose of funding mental health care and facilities to diagnose and treat mental illness and addiction. This is a special tax and would apply to all areas of the County, including all cities.

This would add a transactions (sales) and use tax consisting of one-half cent for five years, and thereafter reduced to one-eighth cent, cumulative to all existing state taxes, local county and city taxes. All revenue from this tax will be placed into a special fund to be used only for services, treatment and facilities for persons with mental health illness and addiction. For five (5) years a maximum of 75% of all revenue will be devoted to facilities, and not less than 25% will be dedicated to services and treatment; thereafter all revenue will be used for ongoing operations, services and treatment.

Once adopted, this fund would be dedicated to the following: the necessary infrastructure to support and stabilize individuals suffering from mental health illness, including addiction and neurological disorders; psychiatric and other behavioral health facilities; and a regional health training facility to be used by behavioral health professionals and other first responders.

The measure requires annual audits and an independent citizens’ oversight committee to ensure that the funds are used for the specific purpose of this ordinance and not spent for any other purposes.

The measure does not become operative until 110 days after it is approved by the voters.

This measure was placed on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors.

This measure must be adopted by two-thirds (2/3) of the voters.

A **YES** vote will be a vote in favor of adoption of the proposed ordinance.

A **NO** vote will be a vote against the adoption of the proposed ordinance.

DATED: August 18, 2017

s/K L Elliott
KATHARINE L. ELLIOTT
COUNTY COUNSEL

**COUNTY AUDITOR'S FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT –
MEASURE B**

This measure is called the Mental Health Treatment Act and would increase the sales tax collected in Mendocino County by one-half of one cent per dollar (0.50%) of taxable sales over a five year period, and thereafter be reduced to one-eighth cent per dollar (0.125%) of annual taxable sales to continue unless repealed.

The following estimates were provided by the County's Sales Tax Revenue Manager (HdL Companies). Using their statewide five year five year projections, a countywide, half cent sales tax should net a total of \$38,019,000 for a five year period from July 2018 through June 2023. Thereafter, an ongoing one-eighth cent sales tax would generate approximately \$1,972,000 per year which would continue unless or until the tax is repealed by a majority vote in a general election.

These funds shall be kept in a special fund and used for improved services, treatment and facilities for persons with mental health conditions. For a period of five (5) years a maximum of 75% of the sales tax revenue may be used for facilities, with not less than 25% dedicated to services and treatment. Thereafter 100% of all sales tax revenue shall be used for ongoing operations, services and treatment.

s/Lloyd Weer
Auditor-Controller,
County of Mendocino

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF
MEASURE B**

Everyone agrees that people suffering from mental illness or drug addiction need treatment. Jail is not a solution. Nor is confinement in distant facilities far from home.

That's why it's crucial to **vote YES on Measure B** – Mendocino County's Mental Health Treatment Act.

Since Mendocino County closed its only psychiatric health facility in 2000, local mental health services for our most vulnerable citizens have drastically declined. Today, too many beds in our emergency rooms and county jail are occupied by men and women suffering from mental illness and/or addiction. Our county jail shouldn't be the largest psychiatric facility in the region.

Vote YES on Measure B so Mendocino County can construct and operate local mental health treatment facilities and a behavioral health training center so Mendocino County residents suffering from mental illness or addiction can be appropriately diagnosed, housed and treated.

Traumatized veterans, the homeless, even some of our own family members or friends are paying the price of our neglected mental health system - - and so are taxpayers.

Vote YES on Measure B to save taxpayer dollars by providing early treatment of mental illness and drug addiction, breaking the cycle of homelessness and re-incarceration.

Measure B also includes important taxpayer protections.

Vote YES on Measure B, because, by law, all funds can only be used to improve mental health services in Mendocino County. They cannot be taken by the State or used elsewhere.

Vote YES on Measure B to require independent annual audits that must be reviewed by a Citizens' Oversight Committee.

Vote YES on Measure B to improve the quality of life for everyone in Mendocino County by providing essential mental health services to Mendocino County residents who need them.

Please join law enforcement, doctors, nurses, taxpayer advocates, business leaders and neighbors by voting **YES on Measure B**. It's the right thing to do.

s/Tom Allman
Tom Allman, Sheriff, Mendocino County

s/John McCowen
John McCowen, Chair, representing The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

s/Debbie L Marks MD
Debbie L Marks, Emergency Physician

s/Ross H. Liberty
Ross H. Liberty, Business owner, Taxpayer Advocate

s/Carlos Jacinto
Carlos Jacinto, Youth Advocate

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B WAS SUBMITTED.