

THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Be it enacted by the people of St. Louis County:

502.250 – Name.

The sales tax authorized by section 502.252 shall be known as the Early Childhood Economic Development Sales Tax.

502.251 – Purpose and Intent.

(1) Establishing St. Louis County as a regional leader in early childhood care and education so that our children are prepared to learn, succeed and assure the future of the County and its ability to grow and sustain economic development; and

(2) Providing quality early childhood programs that promote safe, nurturing environments for the physical, social, emotional and cognitive development of young children, while responding to the needs of families to ensure that children are able to start school ready to learn and succeed, making our K-12 system stronger for all; and

(3) Funding access and quality improvement initiatives for early childhood programs through a half-cent sales tax to enable thousands more children ages 0-5 to start school ready to learn.

502.252 – Sales Tax Imposed – Amount – Effective Date.

Pursuant to the authority granted by and subject to the provisions of section 67.1305, RSMo, a tax for the benefit of the County is hereby imposed upon all sellers for the privilege of engaging in the business of selling tangible personal property or rendering taxable services in retail to the extent and in the manner provided in sections 144.010 – 144.525 RSMo, and the rules and regulations of the Director of Revenue issued pursuant thereto. The rate of the tax shall be 1/2 percent on the receipts from the sale at retail of all tangible personal property or taxable services at retail within the County, if such property and such services are subject to taxation by the state under the provisions of sections 144.010 – 144.525 RSMo. The tax shall become effective April 1, 2021 and shall apply to all sales made after March 31, 2021, and shall be collected as provided in section 67.1305 RSMo.

502.253 – Use of Sales Tax – Geographic Limitations.

The revenue generated by the Early Childhood Economic Development Sales Tax shall be used exclusively to fund early childhood instruction and the development of quality early childhood care and education programs at certain facilities located within either or both of the following areas:

(1) Any public school building of any school district wholly or partially located within the geographical boundaries of the County and attended by residents of the County; and/or

(2) Any provider located within the County that provides early childhood care and education for children 0-5 years old before they enter kindergarten.

502.254 – Use of Sales Tax – Authorized Uses.

The revenue generated by the Early Childhood Economic Development Sales Tax shall be used for economic development purposes by funding early childhood care and education programs for children 0-5 years old before they enter kindergarten, provided they reside within the geographical boundaries of the County; by funding improvements to early childhood care and education programs and facilities that meet

the requirements of section 502.253; and by building the County's early childhood care and education workforce.

502.255 – Early Childhood Economic Development Tax Board.

A seven member Early Childhood Economic Development Tax Board shall be established pursuant to section 67.1305 RSMo, prior to the expenditure of any revenues received from the Early Childhood Economic Development Sales Tax authorized by section 502.252. The Board shall conduct business with accountability and transparency and make all financial records available on a public website.

502.256– Exclusion of Revenues from Special Taxing Districts.

When the Early Childhood Economic Development Sales Tax is imposed within a special taxing district, the Early Childhood Economic Development Sales Tax shall be excluded from the calculation of revenues available to such special taxing district, and no revenues from the Early Childhood Economic Development Sales Tax shall be used for the purposes of any such special taxing district, unless recommended by the Early Childhood Economic Development Tax Board and approved by the County Council. For the purposes of this section, the term special taxing district includes, but is not limited to, tax increment financing districts, neighborhood improvement districts, and community improvement districts.