LEGISLATION NO: _0242-19_____ SPONSOR: Pernell Halona

TITLE: An Action Relating To The Health, Education & Human Services Committee, And The Naabik'íyáti' Committee; Requesting New Mexico And Arizona Delegations To Sponsor A Bill Amending 25 U.S.C 13, “The Snyder Act,” To Authorize Forward Funding Of The Bureau Of Indian Education Higher Education Grant Program

Date posted: August 6, 2019 at 2:19pm

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0242-19

DATE: August 5, 2019

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; REQUESTING NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA DELEGATIONS TO SPONSOR A BILL AMENDING 25 U.S.C 13, "THE SNYDER ACT," TO AUTHORIZE FORWARD FUNDING OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

PURPOSE: If approved, this resolution will request New Mexico and Arizona Delegations to sponsor amending 25 U.S.C. 13 "The Snyder Act," to authorize forward funding of the Bureau of Indian Education Higher Education Grant Program.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.
PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—FIRST YEAR, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

[Signature]

Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0242-19

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE,
AND THE NAABIK’IYÁTI’ COMMITTEE; REQUESTING NEW MEXICO AND
ARIZONA DELEGATIONS TO SPONSOR A BILL AMENDING 25 U.S.C 13, “THE
SNYDER ACT.” TO AUTHORIZE FORWARD FUNDING OF THE BUREAU OF
INDIAN EDUCATION HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS:

Section One. Authority

A. The Navajo Nation established the Health, Education, and Human Services
Committee ("HEHSC") as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such
empowered HEHSC to review and recommend resolutions relating to education
within the Navajo Nation 2 N.N.C. § 400(C)(1).

B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik’iye’ta’h Committee as a Navajo Nation
Council standing committee, 2 N.N.C. § 700 (A).

C. The Naabik’iye’ta’h Committee has the power to coordinate all federal, county and state
programs with other standing committees and branches of the Navajo Nation
government to provide the most efficient delivery of services to Navajo Nation. 2
N.N.C. § 701(A)(4).

D. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the United
Section Two. Findings

A. The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) operates the Higher Education Grant ("Grant") as authorized by 25 U.S.C 13, "The Snyder Act," enacted on November 2, 1921.

B. The Navajo Nation provides college financial assistance and scholarships from the Grant directly to Navajo college students through a P.L. 93-638 contract; and throughout Indian Country, numerous Indian Tribes have administered their own scholarship program through P.L. 93-638 contracts.

C. The Federal government routinely operates under continuing resolutions. As such, Grant funding is delayed. Consequently, college scholarship and financial assistance payments, and institutional disbursements are delayed. This is problematic for the Navajo and Indian college students who depend on these funds to pay for tuition, books, and room and board.

D. There is a precedent for forward funding of Federal Indian education programs: Bureau of Indian Education funded schools, including P.L. 93-638 and P.L. 100-297 schools, and Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, are forward funded through 25 U.S.C. § 2010 and 25 U.S.C. § 1810 respectively.

E. The proposed bill will amend 25 U.S.C 13, commonly known as "The Snyder Act," by adding the following: "Amounts appropriated in an appropriation Act for any fiscal year to carry out the Bureau of Indian Education Higher Education Grant Program (Scholarships and Adult Education, Special Education Scholarships, and the Science Post Graduate Scholarship Fund) shall be available for obligation on July 1 of such fiscal year and shall remain available until September 30 of the succeeding fiscal year." See draft bill attached as Exhibit A.

F. It is in Navajo Nation's best interest to request New Mexico and Arizona Delegations to sponsor a bill amending 25 U.S.C 13, "The Snyder Act," to authorize forward funding of the Bureau of Indian Education Higher Education Grant Program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:
A. The Navajo Nation hereby requests New Mexico and Arizona Delegations to sponsor a bill amending 25 U.S.C 13, “The Snyder Act,” to authorize forward funding of the Bureau of Indian Education Higher Education Grant Program, and urges the United States Congress to pass and enact this legislation.

B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, President of the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Nation Washington Office, and their respective designees, to advocate on the behalf of the Navajo Nation to support the passage and enactment of amendments to 25 U.S.C. 13, “The Snyder Act” to authorize forward funding of the Bureau of Indian Education Higher Education Grant Program.