

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0142-19

SPONSOR: Mark A Freeland

TITLE: An Emergency Action Relating To The Navajo Nation Council; Respectfully Requesting The Government Of New Mexico, Michelle Lujan Grisham, To Select A Navajo Nation Member To Temporarily Replace The Late Senator John Pinto Until Such Time As An Election Is Held To Fill The Unexpired Term

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Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7586

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0142-19

DATE: June 5, 2019

AN EMERGENCY ACTION RELATING TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;
RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO, MICHELLE
LUJAN GRISHAM, TO SELECT A NAVAJO NATION MEMBER TO
TEMPORARILY REPLACE THE LATE SENATOR JOHN PINTO UNTIL SUCH
TIME AS AN ELECTION IS HELD TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM

PURPOSE: Requesting Governor Michel Lujan Grisham to select a member of the Navajo Nation as temporary replacement for the late Senator John Pinto until such time as an election is held to fill the unexpired term.

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 review the proposed resolution in detail.

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—FIRST YEAR, 2019

INTRODUCED BY



Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0142-19

AN EMERGENCY ACTION

RELATING TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; RESPECTFULLY
REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO, MICHELLE LUJAN
GRISHAM, TO SELECT A NAVAJO NATION MEMBER TO TEMPORARILY
REPLACE THE LATE SENATOR JOHN PINTO UNTIL SUCH TIME AS AN
ELECTION IS HELD TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is established as the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).
- B. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the State of New Mexico.
- C. This legislation is offered as an emergency legislation to timely address the need for the Governor of New Mexico to appoint a temporary replacement for the late Senator Pinto until such time as an election is held to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 1-15-14. See Exhibit A.
- D. Senator John Pinto, representative to the 3rd District of New Mexico, passed away on May 24, 2019. See Press Release attached hereto as Exhibit B.
- E. Senator John Pinto was elected to Senate in 1977, and held this position until his death on May 24, 2019, making him New Mexico’s longest serving member of Senate. See Exhibit B.

1 F. Senator John Pinto was born in Lupton, Arizona on Navajo Nation and was Díbélzhíní
2 (Black Sheep Clan), born for Táchii'nii (Red Running Into the Water People Clan). See
3 Press Release attached hereto as Exhibit C.

4 G. Senator John Pinto enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1941 and served as a
5 Navajo Code Talker during World War II. See Press Release attached hereto as Exhibit
6 D.

7 H. Senator John Pinto served as a member of the Indian and Cultural Affairs Committee
8 and Senate and Education Committee. See Press Release attached hereto as Exhibit E.

9
10 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

11 A. The Navajo Nation hereby respectfully requests that Governor Michele Lujan Grisham
12 select a member of the Navajo Nation to replace the late Senator Pinot in order to
13 continue Senator Pinto's legacy of strong advocacy and dedicated work to enhance the
14 lives of the Diné of the Great Navajo Nation.

15 B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council,
16 President of the Navajo Nation, and their designees, to advocate for the appointment of
17 a member of the Navajo Nation to be the temporary replacement for the unexpired term
18 of the late Senator Pinto, until such time as an election is held to fill the vacancy for
19 that term.

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