



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin (928) 221-9253
Jolene Holgate (928) 380-4174
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Law and Order Committee supports amending standing committee membership terms

WINDOW ROCK—The Law and Order Committee on Monday approved Legislation No. 0088-15 with a vote of 2-0. If approved by the Council, the bill would change the membership terms for each standing committee to two years.

Currently, Title II of the Navajo Nation Code states that members of each standing committee shall serve a term of office coinciding with their term of office as a delegate, which is four years.

LOC member Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dziil, Tsé Si áni, Wide Ruins) who sponsored the legislation said the committee membership terms should coincide with the two-year term of the Speaker of the Council to provide for continuity within Council.

“We can stay on the same committees, but this would open the door for those who want to serve on other committees,” said Delegate Smith, adding that chapters may also benefit from having their delegate serve on different committees during their four-year term.

LOC member Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) advised that if the legislation becomes law, the timing of the appointments needs to be a primary focus so as not to stall the progress of committees.

In accordance with Title II, the Speaker of the Council selects committee membership which is then subject to confirmation by the Council.

If approved, the bill would impact the Budget and Finance Committee, Law and Order Committee, Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, and the Resources and Development Committee.

The legislation now moves forward to the Naabik’iyátí’ Committee and the full Council for final consideration.

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