



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Law and Order Committee supports bill to change the Veterans Advisory Council to the Navajo Nation Veterans of Board of Commissioners

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Law and Order Committee considered Legislation No. 0467-17, which seeks to amend Title II of the Navajo Nation Code to re-designate the current Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council to the Navajo Nation Veterans Board of Commissioners.

LOC member Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood), who sponsored the legislation, asked for the committee's support to give the proper authority to the veteran's advisory council to meet the needs of Navajo veterans.

"In 2016, the Council approved legislation to establish the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council for the purpose of the advisory council to provide policy recommendations to the Navajo Nation president regarding veteran issues and concerns. However, the advisory council has limited authority to properly execute the needs of veterans. Overall, the advisory council is not taken seriously," said Delegate Begay.

He added that there has been no clear direction for the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration since the establishment.

If approved, the veterans board of commissioners would have the authority to hire and terminate the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration executive director, to approve policies and procedures for the board and the administration, to recommend legislation to the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee and the Council, and to review and recommend budget matters.

During the discussion, LOC member Council Delegate Otto Tso (Tó Nanees Dizi) proposed a work session due to the lack of proper coordination and input among the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration, Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council, agency veteran councils, and the Office of the President and Vice President.

"It seems like this legislation was not properly communicated. Is the president aware of this amendment? I am hesitate to support a legislation if all the involved parties have not worked together on the legislation," said Delegate Tso.

Delegate Begay said that the legislation includes supporting resolutions from the Fort Defiance Agency Veterans Organization and Northern Agency Veterans Organization. Resolutions from the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council and other veterans' organizations are forth coming, added Delegate Begay.

The Law and Order Committee approved Legislation No. 0467-17 with a 3-0 vote. The Navajo Nation Council serves as the final authority for the bill.

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