

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0005-20\_\_

SPONSOR: Amber Kanazbah Crotty

**TITLE: An Action Relating To NAABIK'IYATI; Supporting proposed "Native American Voting Rights Act of 2019" As Introduced Through U.S. Senate Bill 739 And House Of Representative Bill 1694**

***Date posted:*** January 07, 2020 at 7:00 PM

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## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0005-20

**DATE:** December 23, 2019

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI; SUPPORTING PROPOSED "NATIVE AMERICAN VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2019" AS INTRODUCED THROUGH U.S. SENATE BILL 739 AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE BILL 1694

**PURPOSE:** This resolution supports bills introduced in the United States Senate and House of Representatives entitled "Native American Voting Rights Act Of 2019." The bills are identical and numbered as S.739 and H.R. 1694, respectively. The proposed law would address the rights of Native Americans in exercising their right to vote. The proposed law is intended to protect the right of Native voters in respect to voter registration and voting in all elections, particularly state and local elections.

**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.**

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD:                       
Website Posting Time/Date:                       
Posting End Date: 01-12-20  
Eligible for Action: 01-13-20

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION  
2 24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Second Year, 2020

3 INTRODUCED BY

4  
5   
6  
7 (Prime Sponsor)

8  
9 TRACKING NO. 0005-20

10  
11 AN ACTION

12 RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI'; SUPPORTING PROPOSED "NATIVE AMERICAN  
13 VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2019" AS INTRODUCED THROUGH U.S. SENATE BILL 739  
14 AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE BILL 1694

15  
16 WHEREAS:

- 17 1. In the United States, it is constitutionally unlawful for the federal government or any  
18 state to deny to any citizen the right to vote based on "race, color, or previous condition  
19 of servitude." U.S. Constitution, Amendment XV (1870).
- 20 2. Minorities, particularly Native Americans, continue to face discrimination and other  
21 unfair restrictions in the election process. Today, practices of voter suppression include  
22 unfair voter identification requirements, unreasonable voter registration procedures and  
23 inadequate language assistance.
- 24 3. The federal government owes a duty of trust to all Native Americans in this country.  
25 Native Americans are citizens of this country, and many have served honorably in the  
26 military forces of the United States.
- 27 4. Senator Tom Udall and Representative Ben Ray Luján introduced legislation in the  
28 United States Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, entitled "The Native  
29 American Voting Rights Act of 2019." S. 739 (attached as Exhibit A) and H.R. 1694. The  
30 purposes of the legislation are to require states and other jurisdictions to accept tribal

1 identification cards in elections, provide federal funds for voter registration facilities  
2 within reservations, require polling sites in every precinct within Native communities,  
3 prohibit purposeful discrimination, allow ballot submissions at local tribal government  
4 offices (instead of by mail to state and local agencies), permit written translations of  
5 election material (from English into Native languages), provide funding for voter  
6 registration drives and making voting process more accessible for native Americans.

7 .  
8 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

9 The Navajo Nation hereby supports proposed Congressional bill entitled "Native  
10 American Voting Rights Act of 2019" as introduced through U.S. Senate Bill 739 and  
11 House of Representative Bill 1694.