

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0172-20__

SPONSOR: Raymond Smith, Jr.

TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Supporting Proposed Bills, H.R. 7557 and S. 4232, Introduced in the United States House of Representatives and Senate to Amend Title VI of the Social Security Act to Extend the Coverage of Coronavirus Relief Fund Payments to Tribal Governments

Date posted: August 13, 2020 at 7:20PM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

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

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0172-20

DATE: August 12, 2020

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING PROPOSED BILLS, H.R. 7557 AND S. 4232, INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE TO AMEND TITLE VI OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO EXTEND THE COVERAGE OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND PAYMENTS TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will document Navajo Nation support for H.R. 7557 and S. 4232 and urge the U.S. Congress to immediately enact H.R. 7557 and S. 4232 to extend the Coronavirus Relief Fund expenditure deadline to December 30, 2022 for Tribal Governments.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committee. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each committee member to review the proposed resolution in detail.

OLC No. 20-320-1

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 08-18-20
Eligible for Action: 08-19-20

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. 0172-20

10
11 AN ACTION
12 RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING PROPOSED
13 BILLS, H.R. 7557 AND S. 4232, INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES
14 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE TO AMEND TITLE VI OF THE
15 SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO EXTEND THE COVERAGE OF CORONAVIRUS
16 RELIEF FUND PAYMENTS TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

17
18 WHEREAS:

- 19 A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation with the
20 authority to approve statements of policy of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102 (A)
21 and 164 (A).
22 B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with
23 the delegated authority to review and continually monitor the programs and activities
24 of federal departments and to assist development of such programs designed to serve
25 the Navajo People and the Navajo Nation; to coordinate all requests for information,
26 appearances and testimony relating to proposed federal legislation impacting the
27 Navajo Nation; and to coordinate all Navajo appearances and testimony before
28 Congressional committees and departments of the United States government. See 2
29 N.N.C. §§ 701 (A)(6) – (8).
30

- 1 C. On March 27, 2020, U.S. President Donald J. Trump signed into law H.R. 748,
2 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), P.L. 116-136
3 (2020) - a comprehensive relief bill intended to respond to the novel Coronavirus.
- 4 D. Under Title V of the CARES Act, the Coronavirus Relief Fund was created and
5 through it, Congress appropriated \$8,000,000,000 for Tribal governments.
- 6 E. Under the CARES Act, the Secretary of the Treasury was directed to pay Tribal
7 Governments no later than 30 days after the date of enactment or by April 26, 2020.
- 8 F. The Navajo Nation did not receive its apportionments of the Coronavirus Relief Fund
9 from the U.S. Treasury until June 15, 2020, and June 18, 2020 (nearly two months
10 after the Congressionally mandated deadline).
- 11 G. Among the enumerated limitations to expending the Coronavirus Relief Fund (Fund),
12 the federal law currently provides that the Fund may only be used to cover costs
13 "incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30,
14 2020."
- 15 H. On July 9, 2020, Representative Tom O'Halleran introduced H.R. 7557, a bill to
16 amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the coverage of Coronavirus
17 Relief Fund payments to Tribal Governments. **Exhibit A.**
- 18 I. On July 20, 2020, Senator Martin Heinrich introduced S. 4232, a bill to amend title
19 VI of the Social Security Act to extend the coverage of Coronavirus Relief Fund
20 payments to Tribal Governments. **Exhibit B.**
- 21 J. Both H.R. 7557 and S. 4232 propose to extend the Coronavirus Relief Fund
22 expenditure deadline of December 30, 2020 to December 30, 2022 by amending
23 "Section 601(d)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 801(d)(3)) is amended by
24 inserting "(or, in the case of a Tribal government, December 30, 2022)" after
25 "December 30, 2020". **Exhibits A and B.**
- 26 K. The Navajo Nation's per capita COVID-19 infection rates is one of the highest in the
27 country with 9,334 confirmed cases and 473 deaths as of August 12, 2020 with
28 numbers expected to increase.
- 29 L. Due to the delay in disbursement by the U.S. Treasury and the challenges inherent in
30 developing infrastructure on trust lands, the limited time currently available to Tribal

1 governments to expend CARES Funds does not provide the Navajo Nation with
2 enough time to efficiently and effectively implement the proactive preventive and
3 mitigation measures against the first wave of COVID-19 as envisioned by Congress
4 under the CARES Act, let alone combat the predicted second wave. *See Exhibit C.*

5
6 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

7 The Navajo Nation hereby supports H.R. 7557 and S. 4232, attached as **Exhibits A** and
8 **B**, and urges the U.S. Congress to immediately enact H.R. 7557 and S. 4232 to extend the
9 Coronavirus Relief Fund expenditure deadline to December 30, 2022 for Tribal
10 Governments.