

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0277-19

SPONSOR: Amber Kanazbah Crotty

TITLE: An Action Relating To NAABIK'IYATI' Committee; Supporting United States Senate Bill 290 Titled "Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act"

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0277-19

DATE: September 5, 2019

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING UNITED STATES SENATE BILL 290 TITLED "NATIVE YOUTH AND TRIBAL OFFICER PROTECTION ACT"

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to approve the Navajo Nation's support for United States Senate Bill 290 titled "Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act."

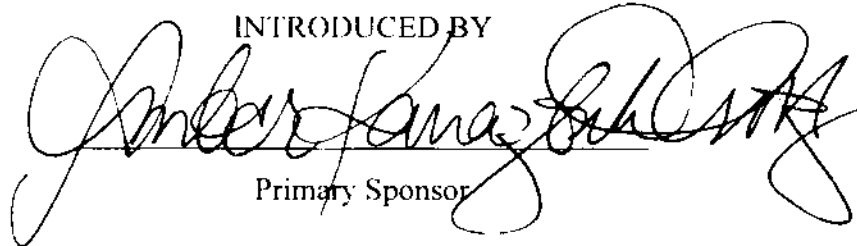
This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: None
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 9-24-19
Eligible for Action: 9-25-19

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—FIRST YEAR, 2019

INTRODUCED BY



Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0277-19

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE: SUPPORTING UNITED STATES SENATE BILL 290 TITLED "NATIVE YOUTH AND TRIBAL OFFICER PROTECTION ACT"

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered the Naabik'iyáti' Committee to monitor all federal and state programs and activities. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700 (A) and 701 (A)(7).
- B. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the federal government.
- C. Senate Bill 290 seeks to protect Native children and promote public safety in Indian country.
- D. Senate Bill 290 offers the following findings:
 - 1. American Indians and Alaskan Natives are 2.5 times more likely to experience violent crimes and at least 2 times more likely to experience rape or sexual assault crimes.
 - 2. The vast majority of American Indian and Alaskan Native victims, 96 percent of female and 89 percent of male victims, report being victimized by a non-Indian.

- 1 3. According to a 2010 Government Accountability Office report, United States
2 Attorneys declined to prosecute nearly 52 percent of violent crimes that occur
3 in Indian country.
- 4 4. More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaskan Native women have
5 experienced violence in their lifetime.
- 6 5. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, homicide is the
7 third leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaskan Native
8 women between 10 and 24 years of age and the fifth leading cause of death
9 for American Indian and Alaskan Native women between 25 and 34 years of
10 age.
- 11 6. On some reservations, American Indian women are murdered at more than 10
12 times the national average.
- 13 7. Tribal prosecutors report that the majority of domestic violence cases involve
14 children either as witnesses or victims, and the Department of Justice reports
15 that American Indian and Alaskan Native children suffer exposure to violence
16 at some of the highest rates in the United States.
- 17 8. Childhood exposure to violence has immediate and long-term effects,
18 including increased rates of altered neurological development, poor physical
19 and mental health, poor school performance, substance abuse, and
20 overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system.
- 21 9. Violence against children and crimes associated with dating violence and
22 domestic violence increase the number of instances of trauma in Tribal
23 communities, which –
 - 24 i. Affects health outcomes.
 - 25 ii. Reduces educational attainment.
 - 26 iii. Hinders economic growth, and
 - 27 iv. Undermines public safety.
- 28 10. Domestic violence calls are among the most dangerous calls that law
29 enforcement receives, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform
30 Crime Report shows that police officers, including tribal police officers, are

1 assaulted when responding to disturbance calls more often than under any
2 other circumstances.

3 11. The complicated jurisdictional structure in Indian country –

- 4 i. Requires a high degree of commitment and cooperation among Tribal,
5 Federal, and state law enforcement officials, and
- 6 ii. When that cooperation breaks down, results in a significant negative
7 impact on the ability to provide public safety to Indian communities.

8 12. The Indian Law and Order Commission established by Congress to review
9 Federal criminal justice policies and practices in Indian country, issued a
10 report in 2013 entitled, “A Roadmap for Making Native America Safer” that
11 recommends the restoration of the inherent authority of Tribal courts.

12 13. Restoring and enhancing local, Tribal capacity to address violent crimes
13 provides for greater local control, safety, accountability, and transparency.

14 14. Tribal communities should be able to protect themselves from dating violence,
15 domestic violence, child violence, and violence committed against members
16 of the criminal justice system.

17
18 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

19 A. The Navajo Nation hereby supports United States Senate Bill 290 titled “Native
20 Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act” attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

21 B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council,
22 President of the Navajo Nation, and their designees, to advocate the Navajo Nation’s
23 support of United States Senate Bill 290.