

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0177-21_

SPONSOR: Raymond Smith, Jr.

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee; Approving and Adopting the Amended Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Housing Program Policy, NNVA Veterans Housing Program – Housing Action Plan, and the NNVA Home Improvement Program Policy

Date posted: August 25, 2021 at 9:24PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0177-21

DATE: August 25, 2021

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE; APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED NAVAJO NATION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOUSING PROGRAM POLICY, NNVA VETERANS HOUSING PROGRAM—HOUSING ACTION PLAN, AND THE NNVA HOME IMPORVEMENT PROGRAM POLICY

PURPOSE: This resolution, if adopted, will amend the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration housing program policy, NNVA Veterans Housing Program- Housing Action Plan, and the NNVA Home Improvement Program Policy to include Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act, and related IRS compliance provisions, along with other clarification within the policies.

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: VSRedhorse

Website Posting Time/Date: _____

Posting End Date: August 30, 2021

Eligible for Action: August 31, 2021

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Third Year, 2021

INTRODUCED BY



(Primary Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0177-21

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE; APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE AMENDED NAVAJO NATION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOUSING PROGRAM POLICY, NNVA VETERANS HOUSING PROGRAM—HOUSING ACTION PLAN, AND THE NNVA HOME IMPORVEMENT PROGRAM POLICY

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITIES

- A. The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 400(A). Among other powers, the Committee shall review and recommend resolutions relating to social services, health, environmental health, education, veterans and veterans services, employment and labor. 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(6).
- B. The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee is to promulgate regulations, promote accountability to policies, and provide legislative oversight on matters involving health, social service, education, general governmental services and human services. 2 N.N.C. § 400(C)(1).
- C. The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee has legislative oversight and will have final approval of the respective plans of operation over the Navajo Nation

1 Veterans Administration and the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council. 2 N.N.C. §
2 1035 and CJY-55-18.

3 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 4 A. The Navajo Nation Veterans Administration and the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory
5 Council were established within the Executive Branch, 2 N.N.C. §§ 1031 *et. al.*, in the
6 best interest of the Navajo Nation Veterans to ensure quality services are provided to
7 the Navajo Veterans pursuant to CJA-3-16.
- 8 B. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee has legislative oversight and
9 will have final approval of the respective plans of operation over the Navajo Nation
10 Veterans Administration and the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council pursuant to
11 2 N.N.C. § 1035 and CJY-55-18.
- 12 C. The Navajo Nation Veterans Administration (NNVA) established a plan of operation
13 through HEHSCAU-12-16 which was amended by HEHSCN-16-20. NNVA' objectives
14 provide administrative oversight and coordination for needed services and programs for
15 Navajo Veterans in areas such as housing, education, healthcare.... and other related
16 Veterans' benefits or programs. NNVA Plan of Ops, Sec. II (A). Furthermore, NNVA's
17 purpose includes recommending overall policies and legislations regarding Navajo
18 Veterans to the Navajo Nation Council Committees that are consistent with applicable
19 Navajo Nation laws and policies. NNVA Plan of Ops, Sec. III (E). In addition, the
20 NNVA shall establish and fund the Veterans' Housing programs... for Navajo
21 Veterans... NNVA Plan of Ops, Sec. III (H). Attached as **Exhibit E**.
- 22 D. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee established the original Navajo
23 Nation Veterans Housing Program Policies and Procedures and the Housing Action Plan
24 by HEHSCF-03-18. The HEHSCF-03-18 Housing Program Policies and Procedures
25 were rescinded by HEHSCAP-04-21 attached as **Exhibit A**, which also adopted the
26 Navajo Nation Veterans Housing Program Policy attached as **Exhibit B**, NNVA
27 Veterans Housing Program—Housing Action Plan attached as **Exhibit C**, and the
28 NNVA Home Improvement Program Policy attached as **Exhibit D**.
- 29 E. The Navajo Nation Veterans Housing Program Policy **Exhibit B** is hereby amended by
30 **Exhibit 1**. The amendments are formatted as underline-strikeout.

1 F. The NNVA Veterans Housing Program—Housing Action Plan **Exhibit C** is hereby
2 amended by **Exhibit 2**. The amendments are formatted as underline-strikeout.

3 G. the NNVA Home Improvement Program Policy **Exhibit D** is hereby amended by
4 **Exhibit 3**. The amendments are formatted as underline-strikeout.

5 H. The amendments provided are to ensure that homes provided to the Navajo Veterans
6 under the Navajo Nation Veterans Housing Program shall be in compliant with the
7 Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act, and related IRS guidance. Also, the amendments
8 provide clarification throughout the housing policies.

9 I. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to approve and adopt the **Exhibit 1, Exhibit**
10 **2, and Exhibit 3** amendments to Navajo Nation Veterans Housing Program Policy,
11 Housing Action Plan, and Home Improvement Program Policy.

12
13 **SECTION THREE. APPROVING NAVAJO NATION VETERANS**
14 **ADMINISTRATION HOUSING PROGRAM POLICY, NNVA VETERANS HOUSING**
15 **PROGRAM—HOUSING ACTION PLAN, AND THE NNVA HOME IMPORVEMENT**
16 **PROGRAM POLICY**

17 The Health, Education and Human Services Committee hereby approves and adopts the
18 amendments attached as **Exhibit 1, Exhibit 2, and Exhibit 3** to Navajo Nation Veterans
19 Housing Program Policy, Housing Action Plan, and Home Improvement Program Policy.

20
21 **SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE**

22 This Act shall become effective upon its approval pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221(B).

23
24 **SECTION FIVE. SAVINGS CLAUSE**

25 If any provision of this Action is determined invalid by the Supreme Court of the Navajo
26 Nation, or by any District Court of the Navajo Nation without appeal to the Navajo Nation
27 Supreme Court, the portions of this Action not determined invalid shall remain as the law of
28 the Navajo Nation.