

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0195-21_

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services,
Naabik'iyáti' and Navajo Nation Council; Approving the Reinstatement of Nizhoni
Harker as a Member of the Navajo Nation**

Date posted: September 10, 2021 at 12:16PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0195-21

DATE: September 9, 2021

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING THE REINSTATEMENT OF NIZHONI HARKER AS A MEMBER OF THE NAVAJO NATION

PURPOSE: An action related to Health, Education and Human Services and Nabik'iyati' Committees; approving the reinstatement of Nizhoni Harker as a member of the Navajo Nation.

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: V. Brennan
Website Posting Time/Date:
Posting End Date: September 15, 2021
Eligible for Action: September 16, 2021

Health Education & Human Services Committee
Thence
Naabik'iyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
2 24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Third Year, 2021

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 
5

6 (Prime Sponsor)

7
8 TRACKING NO. 0195-21

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10 AN ACTION

11 RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES,
12 NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING THE
13 REINSTATEMENT OF NIZHONI HARKER AS A MEMBER OF THE NAVAJO
14 NATION

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16 BE IT ENACTED:

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18 **SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY**

- 19 A. Under the laws of the Navajo Nation, any enrolled member of the Navajo Nation may
20 renounce [her] membership by written petition to the President of the Navajo Nation
21 requesting that his name be stricken from the Navajo Nation roll. *See* 1 N.N.C. § 705
22 (Renunciation of membership).
- 23 B. The Navajo Nation in addition states, “[n]o person, otherwise eligible for membership
24 in the Navajo Nation, may enroll as a member of the Navajo Nation, who, at the same
25 time, is on the roll of any other tribe of Indians.” *See* 1 N.N.C. § 703 (Member of
26 another tribe).
- 27 C. Renounced members may be reinstated by the Navajo Nation only by the vote of
28 majority of the Navajo Nation Council. *See* 1 N.N.C. § 705 (Renunciation of
29 membership).
- 30

1 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 2 A. The Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records has issued a memorandum dated August
3 19, 2021, attached as **Exhibit A**, confirming Nizhoni Harker (“Ms. Harker”) was
4 enrolled with the Navajo Nation on January 18, 1994. Ms. Harker is one-half (1/2)
5 Navajo blood and eligible for re-enrollment with the Navajo Nation so long as she is
6 not enrolled with another Indian tribe.
- 7 B. On September 2, 1998, Ms. Harker’s parents petitioned for relinquishment of Ms.
8 Harker from the Navajo Nation through the Section 164 Review Process #11313,
9 attached as **Exhibit B**, with the intent to enroll her with the Zuni tribe.
- 10 C. Ms. Harker has formally requested reinstatement into the Navajo Nation. *See* letter
11 dated July 31, 2021, as **Exhibit C**.
- 12 D. The Zuni Tribe has confirmed, as provided in **Exhibit D**, Ms. Harker formally
13 relinquished her Zuni tribal membership on June 19, 2019.

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15 **SECTION THREE. REENROLLMENT**

16 Nizhoni Harker is and shall be reinstated, or otherwise re-enrolled, as a member of the
17 Navajo Nation. By this action of the Navajo Nation Council and pursuant to the laws of
18 the Navajo Nation, she shall be entitled to all rights, benefits and privileges associated with
19 membership with the Navajo Nation.

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