LEGISLATION NO: _0198-21_  SPONSOR: Eugene Tso

TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services Committee; Establishing the Educational Recovery Task Force

Date posted: September 15, 2021 at 6:55PM

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DATE: September 9, 2021

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE; ESTABLISHING THE EDUCATIONAL RECOVERY TASK FORCE

PURPOSE: This resolution, if adopted, would establish the Educational Recovery Task Force.

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.
PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL — Third Year, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

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(Primary Sponsor)

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE;

ESTABLISHING THE EDUCATIONAL RECOVERY TASK FORCE

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §400 et seq. The committee oversees the Department of Diné Education, the Navajo Nation Board of Education, and colleges within the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(1) and (3). In carrying out these oversight responsibilities, the committee “assist[s], support[s] and coordinate[s] with local communities, parent organizations and school boards and school board organizations.” 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(4).

B. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(5), the Health, Education and Human Services Committee is authorized to “delegate responsibilities and authorities as appropriate to the Divisions, Chapters and appropriate entities for the efficiency and streamlining of government processes provided that the Committee first approves rules and regulations governing such delegations and rescission of such delegations.” 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(5).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS
A. The education of our Navajo children has been affected and interrupted by the health crisis of COVID-19. The educational disruption has been severe, essentially resulting in a learning crisis. This crisis has affected the entire nation, reflected through low academic test scores and standardized benchmarks not being met.

B. This educational crisis must be addressed, by the Navajo Nation locally and the federal government at the national level. The responsibility for the education of Navajo children rests with both the Navajo Nation and the federal government.

C. It is in the best interests of the Navajo Nation that a Task Force be established for purposes of reviewing and addressing certain issues and concerns related to the impact of COVID-19 on the education of Navajo children.

SECTION THREE. EDUCATIONAL RECOVERY FORCE ESTABLISHMENT

A. The Navajo Nation establishes the Educational Recovery Task Force to review the following subject areas, issues and concerns:

1). Drop-out rate of Navajo students during the pandemic (including the number of students permanently dropping out).

2). Plans for remediation of learning loss during the pandemic (including current mitigation efforts).

3). Plans for training teachers in providing effective evidence-based online education, and whether teachers are prepared to use online teaching methods.

4). The impact of internet connectivity issues on student participation in daily online school instructions and activities (including the number of Navajo students impacted).

5). Plans for school officials in making home visits for purposes of following up on at-risk students.

6). The severity of exploitation by family members of assistance made available to students under COVID-10 relief help.

7). Parents losing jobs due to providing daily care for their children at home and not in school due to the pandemic (including number of parents losing jobs).
8). The inability of parents in providing online learning assistance to their children due to computer literacy problems faced by parents (including the number of such parents).

9). Adequate mental and emotional support for Navajo students in coping with fear and anxiety related to the pandemic (including the number of students provided such support).

B. By written report, the Educational Recovery Task Force shall provide recommendations on addressing issues identified herein. This written report shall be presented to the Health, Education and Human Service Committee no later than 90 days of Task Force establishment.

C. The Educational Recovery Task Force shall consist of:

1). The Superintendent of the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education;

2). _______ members of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee –

3). ____________________;

4). ____________________; and,

5). ____________________.

D. Rules and regulations shall be as follows:

1). The presence of a majority of Task Force members shall constitute a quorum.

2). To the extent permitted by Navajo Nation law, and except as otherwise provided herein, the same rules and provisions of law applicable to subcommittees of standing committees of the Navajo Nation Council shall apply to the Task Force.

3). The members of the Task Force, by majority vote, shall select and determine the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of Task Force.

4). The Task Force shall determine meeting dates and times.

5). The Navajo Department of Diné Education shall provide technical assistance to the Task Force. The Navajo Department of Justice and Office of Legislative Counsel shall provide legal advice and guidance on any legal issues and concerns. The
Office of Legislative Services and the staff of Department of Diné Education shall provide any clerical and administrative assistance.

6). The Task Force shall provide a written report on all assigned tasks herein, including recommendations, and provide this report to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee no later than 90 days of Task Force establishment.

7). The Task Force shall exist for a period of 90 calendar days, unless extended by duly approved resolution of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee.

8). The Task Force shall be authorized to take any other necessary and proper action not specified herein, provided such action is consistent with the intent and purposes of this resolution of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee.

SECTION FOUR. SAVINGS CLAUSE

Should any part of this action be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, portions not determined invalid shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.