

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0210-21_

SPONSOR: Seth Damon

TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees; Supporting Diné College to Apply for and Receive Funding from FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Build Back Better Regional Challenge

Date posted: October 06, 2021 at 5:09 PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET
Tracking No. 0210-21

DATE: October 6, 2021

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND NAABIK'ÍYATI' COMMITTEES; SUPPORTING DINÉ COLLEGE TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE FUNDING FROM FY 2021 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) BUILD BACK BETTER REGIONAL CHALLENGE

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will provide support for Diné College to apply for FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge funding administered by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

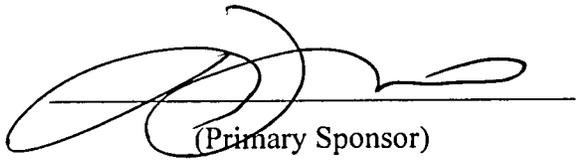
This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committee. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each committee member to review the proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: vsrednose
Website Posting Time/Date:
Posting End Date: October 11, 2021
Eligible for Action: October 12, 2021

PROPOSED COMMITTEE RESOLUTION OF THE NAVAJO NATION

24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Third Year, 2021

INTRODUCED BY



(Primary Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0210-21

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND
NAABIK'ÍYATI' COMMITTEES; SUPPORTING DINÉ COLLEGE TO APPLY
FOR AND RECEIVE FUNDING FROM FY 2021 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT
(ARPA) BUILD BACK BETTER REGIONAL CHALLENGE

WHEREAS:

- A. The Naabik'iyati' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and is empowered to coordinate[s] all federal, county and state programs with other standing committees and branches of the Navajo Nation government to provide the most efficient delivery of services to the Navajo Nation.” 2 N.N.C. §§ 700 (A), 701(A)(4).
- B. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and is empowered to oversee the education initiatives of the Navajo Nation by promoting academic excellence and culturally relevant education and to recommend to the Navajo Nation Council legislation relating to social services, health, environmental health, education, veteran services, employment and labor. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400 (A), 401 (B) (6) (a).
- C. The Navajo Nation recognizes the negative impact to the Nation's economy due to the effects of COVID-19 as well as the negative economic impact of the closure of the Navajo Generating Station.
- D. The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), a bureau within the U.S. Department of Commerce, created a \$1 billion Build Back Better Regional Challenge

1 that seeks to transform regional economies through projects that will help regions recover
2 from the coronavirus pandemic and increase resilience.

- 3 E. The ARPA Build Back Better Regional Challenge Funding is a two-phase competition to
4 (1) help regions develop transformational economic development strategies and (2) fund
5 the implementation of those strategies that will create and grow regional growth clusters.
- 6 F. In phase 1, 50-60 eligible coalitions will be considered finalists and the grants (award
7 floor: \$200,000; award ceiling \$500,000) will be used to prepare more detailed
8 applications for transformational projects that benefit their respective geographic regions
9 and are aligned around a holistic approach to building, strengthening, or scaling a
10 strategic industry or industries.
- 11 G. In phase 2, EDA will select 20-30 of the finalist coalitions to receive \$25--\$75 million
12 (and potentially up to \$100 million) each to fund the collection of projects identified.
- 13 H. Eligible activities under the ARPA BBBRC funding includes construction activities for
14 entities such as water and sewer system improvements, industrial parks, shipping and
15 logistics facilities, business incubators and accelerators, brownfield redevelopment,
16 technology-based facilities, food aggregation, processing and distribution centers, wet
17 labs, multi-tenant manufacturing facilities, science and research parks, transportation
18 enhancements, and telecommunications infrastructure (e.g., broadband) and development
19 facilities. This also includes non-construction activities such as design and engineering,
20 technical assistance, economic recovery strategy development, entrepreneurial support,
21 demand-driven workforce training, new academic curricula, market feasibility studies,
22 and the capitalization of revolving loan funds (RLFs).
- 23 I. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 3122 (4) (A) (iv) and 13 C.F.R. § 300.3 (3) institutions of higher
24 education, including Diné College, or a consortium of institutions of higher education is
25 eligible to receive ARPA BBBRC funding.
- 26 J. Diné College is chartered and established as a nonprofit educational institution wholly
27 owned by the Navajo Nation which provides educational opportunities to the Navajo
28 people and others in areas important to the economic and social development of the
29 Navajo Nation through various programs and initiatives. 10 N.N.C. §§ 2001, 2002(A).
30

1 K. Diné College and regional partners are planning projects to assist in the transformation of
2 the regional economy on the Navajo Nation. Diné College's plan is attached as **Exhibit A**
3 and includes eight (8) projects totaling \$100,000,000.00.

4 L. The Board of Regents of Diné College, in the exercise of its authority over the College,
5 has approved Diné College to apply for the American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better
6 Regional Challenge grant funding.

7
8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

9 The Navajo Nation hereby supports Diné College's application to receive funding from
10 the FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge to
11 implement its plan outlined in **Exhibit A**.