

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0222-21\_

SPONSOR: Edison J. Wauneka

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Law and Order, Naabik'iyáti' and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Navajo Nation Election Code at 11 N.N.C. §282 (A), Voter Registration Time Period**

*Date posted:* November 01, 2021 at 6:22PM

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## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0222-21

**DATE:** October 21, 2021

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACT RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING NAVAJO NATION ELECTION CODE AT 11 N.N.C. §282(A), VOTER REGISTRATION TIME PERIOD

**PURPOSE:** This resolution, if adopted, would amend the Navajo Nation Election Code at 11 N.N.C. §282(A) concerning voter registration closing time.

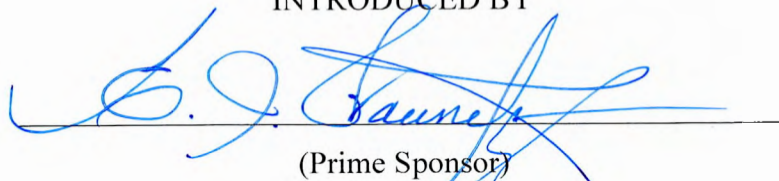
**This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.**

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Kreedhuse  
Website Posting Time/Date:  
Posting End Date: November 6, 2021  
Eligible for Action: November 7, 2021

Law & Order Committee  
Thence  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee  
Thence  
Navajo Nation Council

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
2 24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Third Year, 2021

3 INTRODUCED BY

4   
5  
6 (Prime Sponsor)

7  
8 Tracking No. 0222-21

9  
10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' AND THE NAVAJO  
12 NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING NAVAJO NATION ELECTION CODE AT 11  
13 N.N.C. §282(A), VOTER REGISTRATION TIME PERIOD

14  
15 BE IT ENACTED:

16  
17 SECTION ONE. AUTHORITIES

- 18 A. The Law and Order Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council.  
19 2 N.N.C. § 600. The committee has the authority to review and make recommendations  
20 to the Navajo Nation Council on proposed amendments and enactments to the Navajo  
21 Nation Code. 2 N.N.C. §601(B)(14).
- 22 B The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2  
23 N.N.C. § 700. Under Navajo Nation law, "a proposed resolution that requires final  
24 action by the Navajo Nation Council [must] be assigned to standing committee(s)  
25 having authority over the subject matter at issue and the Naabik'iyáti' Committee." 2  
26 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9). Also, the committee has oversight over the Commission on  
27 Navajo Government Development. 2 N.N.C. § 970.
- 28 C. The Navajo Nation Council is an elected body authorized to enact laws of the Navajo  
29 Nation. See generally, 2 N.N.C. § 164.  
30

1           **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 2           A. Under the Navajo Nation Election Code, the process for voter registration includes the  
3           encoding of all information for registration and voting purposes. Under the Code,  
4           voter registration ends 30 days before an election. 11 N.N.C. § 282(A). On the same  
5           day that voter registration ends, the process for absentee voting begins. *See, Rule 1,*  
6           *Approving the Addition of an NEA E-mail Address on Absentee Voting Forms and*  
7           *Approving an Amendment to Rule 1 of the Rules and Regulations for Absentee Voting*  
8           *to Require that Such Ballots be Made Available No Less Than 30 Days Prior To An*  
9           *Election.* BOESAP-020-18. (incorporated herein by this reference). All applications  
10          for absentee voting must be verified by the Election Administration. To ensure  
11          adequate time for encoding voter registration information and sufficient preparation  
12          for absentee voting, it is necessary to change the registration ending date to an earlier  
13          time.
- 14          B. The Navajo Board of Election Supervisors supports and recommends amending the  
15          Election Code at 11 N.N.C. § 282(A) as provided in attached **EXHIBIT A**.
- 16          C. It is in the best interests of the Navajo Nation to amend the voter registration time  
17          period for purposes of ensuring an orderly process for voter registration and absentee  
18          voting.

19  
20           **SECTION THREE. AMENDING ELECTION CODE**

21           The Navajo Nation hereby amends section 282(A) the Navajo Nation Election Code as  
22           follows:

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24           \_\_\_\_\_

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26           **§ 282. Registration form; appeal**

- 27           A. A voter registration roll listing each registered voter by Chapter shall be maintained by  
28           the Board at the Election Administration in Window Rock. The Board shall keep the register  
29           open, subject to the provisions of subsection (A)(1) below, during regular business hours,  
30           beginning ten (10) days after each general, chapter or special election and continuing until 40

1 30 days prior to the next primary, general or chapter election or in the event of a special  
2 election, until an election date for the special election is set.

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6 **SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE**

7 The amendments enacted herein shall be effective upon its approval pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §221  
8 and 2 N.N.C. §1005 (C) (10-12).  
9

10 **SECTION FIVE. CODIFICATION**

11 The provisions of these amendments of the Navajo Nation Code shall be codified by the  
12 Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall incorporate such  
13 amendments in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.  
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15 **SECTION SIX. SAVINGS CLAUSE**

16 Should any provision of these amendments be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation  
17 Supreme Court, or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation without appeal to the Navajo  
18 Nation Supreme Court, those amendments that are not determined invalid shall remain the  
19 law of the Nation.  
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