LEGISLATION NO: _0259-21_  SPONSOR: Vince R. James

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Budget and Finance Committee; Rescinding BFJA-04-20 as it Relates to the Travel Policies Manual for Navajo Nation Officials and Employees; Reinstating the Travel Policies and Procedures Approved in BFJA-01-02

Date posted: __December 06, 2021 at 4:56PM

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DATE: December 6, 2021

TITLE OF LEGISLATION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE; RESCINDING BFJA-04-20 AS IT RELATES TO THE TRAVEL POLICIES MANUAL FOR NAVAJO NATION OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES; REINSTATING THE TRAVEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES APPROVED IN BFJA-01-02

PURPOSE OF THIS LEGISLATION: to rescind the 2020 Travel Policies Manual approved in BFJA-04-20 and reinstate the Navajo Nation Employees’ Travel Policy and Procedures Handbook approved in BFJA-BFJA-01-02.
PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Third Year, 2021

Introduced by:

[Signature]

(Prime Sponsor)

Tracking No. 0259-21

AN ACTION
RELATING TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE; RESCINDING
BFJA-04-20 AS IT RELATES TO THE TRAVEL POLICIES MANUAL FOR
NAVAJO NATION OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES; REINSTATING THE
TRAVEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES APPROVED IN BFJA-01-02

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY
A. The Budget and Finance Committee is a standing committee with the authority to
promulgate policies and regulations concerning wages, expenditure reimbursements, and
fringe benefits for Navajo Nation officials and employees. 2 N.N.C. §301(B)(8).
B. In 2019, the Office of the Controller developed new travel policies and procedures for
Navajo Nation officials and employees, titled: “Travel Policies Manual.” This new
Manual was approved by the Budget and Finance Committee in January 2020 via
Resolution No. BFJA-04-20. EXHIBIT 1.
C. The Budget and Finance Committee has oversight authority over the Office of the
Controller. 2 N.N.C. §301(B)(13).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS
A. In January 2020, via Resolution No. BFJA-04-20, the Budget and Finance Committee
approved the Controller’s newly developed Travel Policies Manual. BFJA-04-20 rescinded the old employee travel policies and procedures previously approved in Resolution No. BFJA-01-02. BFJA-01-02 with the old procedures is attached hereto as EXHIBIT 2.

B. Since the new Travel Policies Manual was adopted in January 2020, Navajo Nation Council delegates and Navajo Nation employees have encountered numerous problems whenever attempting to get travel advances approved, obtaining reimbursements for travel expenses, using their personal vehicles to travel, and incurring other costs while traveling. These problems have resulted in the unnecessary loss of personal finances on the part of delegates and employees due to official travel necessary for them to perform their job duties for the Navajo Nation.

C. Prior to January 2020, the use of the old “NAVAJO NATION EMPLOYEES’ TRAVEL POLICY AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK” approved in Resolution No. BFJA-01-02 (EXHIBIT 2) was much simpler and easier to follow, and use of the old Handbook resulted in fewer problems and financial issues for Navajo Nation officials and employees who needed to travel.

D. Due to the problems experienced with the new Travel Policies Manual approved in BFJA-04-20, there is an urgent need to return to the old travel policies and procedures, and the Navajo Nations finds that implementing the old pre-2020 procedures is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation.

SECTION THREE. RESCINDING BFJA-04-20 AS IT RELATES TO THE TRAVEL POLICIES MANUAL APPROVED THEREIN; REINSTATING THE TRAVEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES APPROVED IN BFJA-01-02


B. The Navajo Nation hereby reinstates “THE NAVAJO NATION EMPLOYEES’ TRAVEL POLICY AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK” attached as Sub-Exhibit A to Resolution No. BFJA-01-02. EXHIBIT 2.
SECTION FOUR. DIRECTIVES
Except as may be provided otherwise in applicable Navajo Nation or federal laws, regulations, or contract/agreement terms, as of January 1, 2022 all Navajo Nation governmental divisions, departments, programs, offices, officials, and employees shall immediately implement and comply with the "THE NAVAJO NATION EMPLOYEES' TRAVEL POLICY AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK" (see Sub-Exhibit A to the attached EXHIBIT 2) in their handling of all matters related to official travel by Navajo Nation officials and employees; and compliance with such Handbook shall be mandatory unless and until the Budget and Finance Committee by resolution amends or rescinds any provision(s) therein.

SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE
This legislation shall become effective upon certification by the Budget and Finance Committee, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §301(B)(8).

SECTION SIX. SAVING CLAUSE
If any provision of this legislation is determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, or by a Navajo Nation District Court without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, those provisions of this legislation not determined invalid shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.