

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0023-22_

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Act Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, Law and Order, and Naabik'íyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Certain Sections of the Navajo Nation Code to Transfer Legislative Oversight Over Veteran Services to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee

Date posted: January 27, 2022 at 7:15PM

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Office of Legislative Services
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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET
Tracking No. **0023-22**

DATE: January 23, 2022

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND ORDER, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE TO TRANSFER LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OVER VETERAN SERVICES TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will amend certain sections of the Navajo Nation Code to transfer legislative oversight over veteran services to the Naabikiyati Committee.

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: VORDANASE
Website Posting Time/Date:
Posting End Date: FEBRUARY 1, 2022
Eligible for Action: FEBRUARY 2, 2022

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

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
2 24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Fourth Year, 2022

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 
5 _____

6 (Prime Sponsor)

7
8 TRACKING NO. **0023-22**

9
10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW
12 AND ORDER, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO
13 NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE NAVAJO
14 NATION CODE TO TRANSFER LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OVER
15 VETERAN SERVICES TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE
16

17 BE IT ENACTED:

18 SECTION ONE. FINDINGS

- 19 A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of
20 the Navajo Nation Council and has the power to review and recommend resolutions
21 relating to veterans and veteran services. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400(A), 401(B)(6). In addition,
22 the Health Education and Human Services Committee shall recommend to the Navajo
23 Nation Council... to rescind that plan of operation or an existing plan of operation
24 for any Division or Department under the Committee's oversight. 2 N.N.C. § 401
25 (C)(1).
- 26 B. The Law and Order Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council
27 and has the power to review and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation
28 Council on proposed amendments to and enactments in the Navajo Nation Code. 2
29 N.N.C. §§ 600(A), 601(B) (14)

- 1 C. The Naabik'iyati' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council
2 and has the power to review proposed legislation which requires final action by the
3 Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700(A), 164(A)(9). In addition, the Naabikiyati
4 Committee serves as the oversight for the Office of Legislative Services and other
5 offices, programs, commissions, boards or task forces under the Legislative Branch
6 of the Navajo Nation Government, unless otherwise designated by Navajo Nation
7 law, and to approve and amend plans of operation thereto. 2 N.N.C. § 701 (A)(5)
- 8 D. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §
9 102(A).

10
11 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 12 A. In 2011, the Navajo Nation Council adopted Resolution CAP-10-11 which amended
13 certain sections of the Navajo Nation Code, Title 2 §§ 101 through 835, to conform
14 to the newly established 24-member Navajo Nation Council and made necessary
15 revisions to the legislative process and current standing committee structure.
- 16 B. Resolution CAP-10-11 established the Health, Education and Human Services
17 Committee with legislative oversight over veteran services. 2 N.N.C. § 400(C)(3).
- 18 C. The purpose of this legislation is to transfer legislative oversight over veteran services
19 from the Health, Education and Human Services Committee to the Naabikiyati
20 Committee.
- 21 D. The Navajo Nation Council finds it in the best interest for the Navajo Nation Veterans
22 Administration and Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council to be under the
23 legislative oversight of the Naabikiyati Committee because Diné veterans are highly
24 honored in Diné society and culture and all veteran matters and concerns should be
25 addressed by the full Council at the Naabikiyati Committee level.

26
27 **SECTION THREE. AMENDING TITLE 2 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE TO**
28 **TRANSFER LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT FOR THE NAVAJO NATION**
29 **VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND NAVAJO NATION VETERANS**
30 **ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE NAABKIYATI COMMITTEE**

1
2 The Navajo Nation hereby amends the Navajo Nation Code, Title 2, as follows:
3

4
5 **TITLE 2. NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT**

6 **CHAPTER 5. EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

7 **SUBCHAPTER 1. Generally**

8 ****

9 **Article 3. Navajo Nation Veterans Administration**

10 ****

11 **§ 1033. Navajo Housing Program**

- 12 A. There is hereby established a Navajo Veterans Housing Program within the Navajo
13 Veterans Administration.
- 14 B. The Navajo Veterans Housing Program shall be administered by the Navajo Veterans
15 Administration.
- 16 C. Duties and Responsibilities of the Navajo Veterans Housing Program shall include
17 administering the Navajo Nation Veterans Administrations Housing Program Policies
18 and Procedures. The Veterans Administration Housing Program Policies and
19 Procedures shall be approved by the ~~Health, Education and Human Services Committee~~
20 Naabik'íyáti' Committee, upon the recommendation of the Navajo Nation Veterans
21 Advisory Council.

22 ****

23 **§ 1035. Oversight**

24 The Navajo Nation authorizes the establishment of the Navajo Nation Veterans
25 Administration, the Navajo Veterans Housing Program, and the Navajo Nation Veterans
26 Advisory Council. Legislative oversight shall be provided by the ~~Health, Education, and~~
27 ~~Human Services Committee~~ Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council, which
28 will have final approval of the respective plans of operation.

29 ****
30

1 **SECTION FOUR. AMENDING 2 N.N.C §§ 400 *et. seq.* AND 2 N.N.C. § 701 TO**
2 **TRANSFER LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT FOR VETERAN SERVICES FROM**
3 **THE HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE TO THE**
4 **NAABKIYATI COMMITTEE**

5 The Navajo Nation hereby amends the Navajo Nation Code, Title 2, as follows:
6
7

8 **TITLE 2. NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT**
9 **CHAPTER 3. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**
10 **SUBCHAPTER 9. STANDING COMMITTEES**

11 ****

12 **Article 2. Health, Education and Human Services Committee**
13

14 **§ 400. Establishment; Membership; Purposes**

15 ****

16 (C) The purposes of Committee are:
17

17 ****

18 (3) To oversee Navajo Nation efforts in implementing and ensuring compliance with
19 employment and labor laws and policies of the Navajo Nation, ~~and the laws relating to~~
20 ~~veterans services.~~

21
22 **§ 401. Powers**

23 ****

24 B. The Committee Shall have the following enumerated powers:
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25 ****

26 6. To review and recommend:

- 27 a. Resolutions relating to social services, health, environmental health,
28 education, ~~veterans and veterans services~~, employment and labor.
29 b. Navajo Nation agreements and contracts negotiated with federal, state,
30 regional, and tribal governments, private and Navajo Nation health and

1 social service authorities, including environmental health, ~~Veterans~~
2 ~~service~~ or education services subject to applicable laws of the Navajo
3 Nation.

4 ****

5 7. To represent the Navajo Nation:

- 6 a. at local, state, federal levels, in coordination with the President of the
7 Navajo Nation and Naabik'iyáti' Committee on proposed legislation,
8 funding and other actions affecting health, environmental health,
9 social services, education, ~~veterans services~~, employment, training
10 and labor.

11 ****

12 **C. Oversight**

13 *****

14 6. To serve the oversight authority for employment, labor, ~~veteran services~~, training
15 and statistics.

16 ****

17
18 **SUBCHAPTER 9. STANDING COMMITTEES**

19 **ARTICLE 5. Naabik'iyáti'**

20 ****

21 **§ 701. Powers**

22 ****

23 14. To serve as the oversight committee for all veterans and veteran services unless
24 otherwise designated by Navajo Nation law, and to approve and amend plans of
25 operation thereto.

26 *****

27 **SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE**

28 This Act and the Navajo Nation Code amendments enacted herein shall be effective
29 pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221(B).

30

1 **SECTION SIX. CODIFICATION**

2 The provisions of this legislation which amend the Navajo Nation Code shall be codified
3 by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall incorporate
4 such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.
5

6 **SECTION SEVEN. SAVINGS CLAUSE**

7 Should any provisions of this legislation be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation
8 Supreme Court, or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo
9 Nation Supreme Court, those portions of this legislation which are not determined invalid
10 shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.
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