

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0031-22_

SPONSOR: Carl R. Slater

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee and the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Supporting and Requesting Arizona Legislature to Approve by Vote for Public Schools, K-12, to Exceed the Aggregate Expenditure Limitation as Required by the Arizona Constitution for One-Year

Date posted: February 11, 2022 at 5:03PM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

**Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7586**

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0031-22

DATE: February 11, 2022

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING AND REQUESTING ARIZONA LEGISLATURE TO APPROVE BY VOTE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, K-12, TO EXCEED THE AGGREGATE EXPENDITURE LIMITATION AS REQUIRED BY THE ARIZONA CONSTITUTION FOR ONE-YEAR

PURPOSE: If approved, this resolution will support and request Arizona legislature to approve, on or before March 1, the Senate and House of Representatives by two-thirds majority to approve public school districts to exceed the aggregate expenditure limitation.

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: V. Sreedhara
Website Posting Time/Date:
Posting End Date: February 16, 2022
Eligible for Action: February 17, 2022

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
2 24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Fourth Year, 2022

3 INTRODUCED BY

4
5
6 _____
7 Primary Sponsor

8 TRACKING NO. 0031-22

9 AN ACTION

10 RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
11 COMMITTEE AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING AND
12 REQUESTING ARIZONA LEGISLATURE TO APPROVE BY VOTE FOR
13 PUBLIC SCHOOLS, K-12, TO EXCEED THE AGGREGATE EXPENDITURE
14 LIMITATION AS REQUIRED BY THE ARIZONA CONSTITUTION FOR ONE-
15 YEAR

16
17 **WHEREAS:**

- 18 A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the
19 Navajo Nation Council empowered to represent the Navajo Nation at local, state, and
20 federal levels in actions affecting health, environmental health, social services,
21 education, veteran services, employment, training and labor. 2 N.N.C. §401(B)(7).
- 22 B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council
23 empowered to assist and coordinate all requests for information, appearances and
24 testimony relating to proposed county, state, and federal legislation impacting the
25 Navajo Nation; and to coordinate with all committees, Chapters, branches and entities
26 concerned with all Navajo appearances and testimony before Congressional committees,
27 state legislatures and departments and county and local governments. N.N.C. §§ 700
28 (A), 701 (A)(6)(8).
- 29 C. In 1980, the Arizona Constitution was amended and imposed limitations on school
30 districts to limit its expenditure on an aggregate system. Generally, allowable budgeted

1 expenditures are based on changes in student population and inflation. The aggregate
2 expenditure limit for school districts to increase/decrease is based on data from the
3 previous year.

- 4 D. During the 2020-2021 school year, student enrollment in public schools (K-12) dropped
5 significantly due to COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, school districts in Arizona have
6 a lower spending limit during the FY2022 school year.
- 7 E. The Navajo Nation understands that the aggregate expenditure limit can be exceeded
8 pursuant to ARS 15-911 which requires on or before March 1, the legislature, by two-
9 thirds majority of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, approve action to
10 exceed the Arizona Constitutional limitation.
- 11 F. If the Arizona legislature does not authorize to exceed the limitation, then, school
12 districts will inherit negative economic impacts such as budget cuts to school programs,
13 services, and employees. The total amount exceeds \$1.1 billion that schools will be
14 unable to spend.
- 15 G. The Navajo Nation will be negatively impacted because fourteen (14) public schools,
16 K-12, are on or near the Navajo Nation where most Navajo students attend, and where
17 Navajo families are employed. More than \$37 million is at stake for the fourteen (14)
18 public school districts if the Arizona legislature does not act to approve for school
19 districts to exceed the aggregate expenditure limitation imposed by the Arizona
20 Constitution. See **Exhibit A** (School Districts and Projected Cuts).
- 21 H. The Chinle Unified School District No. 24 is in Chinle, Navajo Nation, Arizona and the
22 governing board passed a resolution, attached as **Exhibit B**, for the Arizona legislature
23 to vote and approve for school districts to exceed the aggregate expenditure limitation
24 imposed by the Arizona Constitution. If the Arizona legislature does not approve, the
25 Chinle School District will be forced to cut \$4,624,806. The Navajo Nation along with
26 the Chinle Unified School District is in support of the Arizona legislature to vote and
27 approve school districts to exceed the aggregate expenditure limitation.
- 28 I. The Navajo Nation, through the Naabik'iyáti Committee, is supporting and requesting
29 the Arizona State legislature to vote and approve for school districts to exceed the
30

1 aggregate expenditure limitation. The Navajo Nation will be negatively impacted and is
2 concerned about the \$1.1 billion at risk.

3
4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 5 A. The Navajo Nation hereby supports and requests the Arizona legislature, on or before
6 March 1, the Senate and the House of Representatives by two-thirds majority approve
7 for school districts to exceed the aggregate expenditure limitation to avoid negative
8 economic impact for school districts.
- 9 B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council,
10 President of the Navajo Nation, and/or their respective designees, to advocate on the
11 behalf of the Navajo Nation and requesting the Arizona legislature to approve school
12 districts to exceed the aggregate expenditure limitation.
- 13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30