

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0032-22_

SPONSOR: Wilson C. Stewart, Jr.

TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving Reinstatement of Vestah J. Tikium, Formerly Known as Vestah J. James, as a Member of the Navajo Nation

Date posted: February 16, 2022 at 9:55AM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0032-22

DATE: February 14, 2022

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING REINSTATEMENT OF VESTAH J. TIKIUM, FORMERLY KNOWN AS VESTAH J. JAMES, AS A MEMBER OF THE NAVAJO NATION

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will reinstate Vestah J. Tikium as a member of the Navajo Nation.


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: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 02-21-22
Eligible for Action: 02-22-22

Health Education & Human Services 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. 0032-22
9

10 AN ACTION

11 RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND
12 NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;
13 APPROVING REINSTATEMENT OF VESTAH J. TIKIUM, FORMERLY
14 KNOWN AS VESTAH J. JAMES, AS A MEMBER OF THE NAVAJO NATION
15

16 BE IT ENACTED:
17

18 SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- 19 A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §
20 102(A).
- 21 B. A proposed resolution that requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council shall be
22 assigned to standing committee(s) having authority over the subject matter at issue and
23 the Naabik'iyáti' Committee. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9).
- 24 C. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the
25 Navajo Nation Council and has legislative oversight over the Navajo Nation Office of
26 Vital Records and Identification. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400(A), 401(C)(2), and 1665.
- 27 D. Navajo Nation law provides, “[r]enunciation of membership” provides that [a]ny
28 enrolled member of the Navajo Nation may renounce his [her] membership by written
29 petition to the President of the Navajo Nation requesting that his [her] name be stricken
30

1 from the Navajo Nation roll. Such person may be reinstated in the Navajo Nation only
2 by the vote of majority of the Navajo Nation Council. 1 N.N.C. § 705.

3 E. In addition, Navajo Law provides, “[n]o person, otherwise eligible for membership in
4 the Navajo Nation, may enroll as a member of the Navajo Nation, who, at the same
5 time, is on the roll of any other tribe of Indians.” 1 N.N.C. § 703.

6 7 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

8 A. The Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records verified through memorandum, attached as
9 **Exhibit A**, that Vestah J. Tikium (formerly Vestah J. James) officially relinquished her
10 enrollment with the Navajo Nation on February 11, 1998, and has not be reinstated
11 since.

12 B. Ms. Tikium officially relinquished her Navajo Nation membership and the Navajo
13 Nation President approved on February 11, 1998. **Exhibit B** provides documentation
14 for relinquishment of Navajo Nation memebership.

15 C. Ms. Tikium was enrolled with the Orutsararmuit Native Council of Bethel, Alaska. Ms.
16 Tikium relinquished her membership with the Orutsararmuit Native Council on
17 February 2, 2000 because she decided to be domiciled within the Navajo Nation,
18 official documents of relinquishment is attached as **Exhibit C**.

19 D. Ms. Tikium is eligible for reinstatement pursuant to 1 N.N.C. § 705 and requesting to
20 be reinstated with the Navajo Nation, as requested in **Exhibit D**.

21 22 **SECTION THREE. RE-ENROLLMENT**

23 The Navajo Nation Council hereby confirms that Vestah J. Tikium be reinstated and re-
24 enrolled as a member of the Navajo Nation. Ms. Tikium shall be entitled to all rights,
25 benefits, and privileges associated with the Navajo Nation membership.