

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0077-22_

SPONSOR: Nathaniel Brown

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Health, Education, and Human Services and the Naabik'iyáti' Committees; Establishing "The Navajo Nation Foster Care Awareness Month" as a Recurring Event in May to Bring Awareness to Navajo Foster Children and Increase the Need for More Navajo Foster Parents

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0077-22

DATE: April 6, 2022

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; ESTABLISHING "THE NAVAJO NATION FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH" AS A RECCURING EVENT IN MAY TO BRING AWARENESS TO NAVAJO FOSTER CHILDREN AND INCREASE THE NEED FOR MORE NAVAJO FOSTER PARENTS

PURPOSE: If approved, this resolution will bring awareness to Navajo children being placed in foster care systems, and bring awareness to the need to increase Navajo foster parents to take in Navajo foster children.

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: Applusean
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 04-17-22
Eligible for Action: 04-18-22

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

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 
5 _____

6 (Prime Sponsor)

7
8 TRACKING NO. 0077-22

9
10 AN ACTION

11 RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES AND
12 THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; ESTABLISHING “THE NAVAJO NATION
13 FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH” AS A RECCURING EVENT IN MAY TO
14 BRING AWARENESS TO NAVAJO FOSTER CHILDREN AND INCREASE THE
15 NEED FOR MORE NAVAJO FOSTER PARENTS

16
17 WHEREAS

- 18 A. The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the
19 Navajo Nation Council empowered to establish Navajo Nation policy, promulgate rules
20 and regulations governing health, social services, education, human services and general
21 government services of the Navajo Nation and its tribal organizations, entities, and
22 enterprises. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400(A), 401(B)(1).
- 23 B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council, and
24 it shall use Nitsáhákees, Nahat'á, Iiná, and Siihasin in exercising oversight authority
25 (including the authority to promulgate rules and regulations: . . . 2 N.N.C. § 700(A).
- 26 C. The purpose of this legislation is to establish the “Navajo Nation Foster Care Awareness
27 Month” in May as a recurring annual event.
- 28 D. Diné Bi Beehaz'áanii Bitsé Siléí is a declaration of the foundation of Diné Law. 1 N.N.C.
29 § 201. Diné Bi Beehaz'áanii Bitsé Siléí provides guidance that Diné life way is who we
30 are as Diné and despite the changes in society we remain Diné forever.

1 E. Diyin Bits'áádéé' Beehaz'áanii (Diné Traditional Law) teaches that our elders and our
2 medicine people, the teachers of the traditional laws, values and principles must always
3 be respected and honored if the people and the government are to persevere and thrive;
4 the teachings of the elders and medicine people, their participation in the government and
5 their contributions of the traditional values and principles of the Diné life way will ensure
6 the growth of the Navajo Nation; and from time to time, the elders and medicine people
7 must be requested to provide the cleansing, protection prayers, and blessing ceremonies
8 necessary for securing healthy leadership and the operation of the government in
9 harmony with traditional law; and the various spiritual healings through worship, song
10 and prayer (Nahaghá) must be preserved, taught, maintained and performed in their
11 original forms. . . 1 N.N.C. § 203(F)(G).

12 F. Furthermore, Diyin Dine'é Bits'áádéé' Beehaz'áanii (Diné Customary Law) provides that
13 it is the right and freedom of the people that the sacred Diné language (nihiinéí') be taught
14 and preserved; and it is the right and freedom of the people that every child and every
15 elder be respected, honored and protected with a healthy physical and mental
16 environment, free from all abuse; and it is the right and freedom of the people that our
17 children are provided with education to absorb wisdom, self-knowledge, and knowledge
18 to empower them to make a living and participate in the growth of the Navajo Nation. 1
19 N.N.C. § 204(C)(E)(F).

20 G. It is imperative to bring awareness to the public regarding our Navajo Children being
21 placed in foster care across tribal communities and the United States because our Navajo
22 Children have unique needs such as continuing and maintaining the Diné language,
23 knowledge of cultural oral stories, and understanding the clan system.

24 H. The Navajo Nation understands that family circumstances do change, and Navajo
25 children end up being placed in foster care in state and tribal foster care systems.

26 I. The Navajo Nation also provides awareness through this legislation that there is a need
27 to increase Navajo foster parents to take in Navajo children who are placed in foster care.

28 J. The Navajo Nation Division of Social Services—Department of Family Services is an
29 entity of the Navajo Nation and should provide further guidance and information for
30

1 foster care children, adoption, and Navajo Indian Child Welfare Act. Please visit their
2 website at <https://www.nndss.navajo-nsn.gov/> for further information.

3
4 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

5 The Navajo Nation hereby establishes the “Navajo Nation Foster Care Awareness Month” in
6 May as a recurring annual event to bring awareness to Navajo children being placed in foster
7 care across tribal communities and the United States, and to increase Navajo foster parents to
8 take in Navajo children who placed in foster care.