

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0085-22_

SPONSOR: Edison J. Wauneka

TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services Committee; Approving Amendments to the Navajo Nation Department for Self-Reliance Pathway to Self-Reliance Policy Manual

Date posted: April 19, 2022 at 7:11PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET
Tracking No. 0085-22

DATE: April 12, 2022

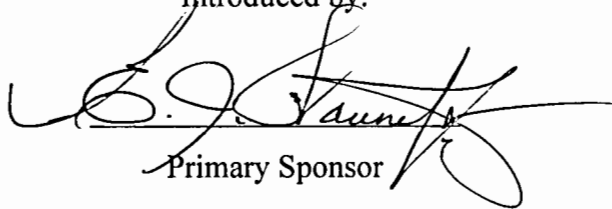
TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE; APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT FOR SELF-RELIANCE PATHWAY TO SELF-RELIANCE POLICY MANUAL

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will amend the Navajo Nation Department for Self-Reliance Pathway to Self-Reliance Policy Manual. The proposed amendments for the Pathway to Self-Reliance Policy Manual must be updated to support the changes in the Tribal Family Assistance Plan, to make necessary changes to meet the purposes and principles of Welfare Reform, and to improve program services and assistance.

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.

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

3 Introduced by:

4 
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6 Primary Sponsor

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8 Tracking No. 0085-22

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10 AN ACTION
11 RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
12 COMMITTEE; APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE NAVAJO NATION
13 DEPARTMENT FOR SELF-RELIANCE PATHWAY TO SELF-RELIANCE
14 POLICY MANUAL

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16 BE IT ENACTED:

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18 SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- 19 A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of
20 the Navajo Nation Council and has legislative oversight over the Navajo Nation
21 Division of Social Services and its programs. The Committee is also empowered to
22 review, recommend or propose the adoption, amendment or rescission of the Plans of
23 Operation for Division of Social Services programs. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400(A), 401(C)(1).
24 B. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is authorized to establish
25 Navajo Nation policy and promulgate rules and regulations governing human services
26 and general government services of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(1).

27
28 SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- 29 A. On November 7, 2012, by Resolution No. HEHSN-33-2012, the Health, Education
30 and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council approved revisions to

1 the Navajo Nation Department for Self-Reliance Pathway to Self-Reliance Policy
2 Manual.

3 B. Furthermore, on December 11, 2019, the Honorable Chairman for the Health,
4 Education and Human Services Committee approved amendments to the Pathway to
5 Self-Reliance Policy Manual, thereby updating certain financial assistance eligibility
6 provisions.

7 C. The Federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
8 (“PRWORA”) of 1996, also known as “Welfare Reform”, was signed into law on
9 August 22, 1996. The PRWORA ended the former Aid to Families with Dependent
10 Children (“AFDC”) and replaced it with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
11 (“TANF”). It also provided federally-recognized tribes with the opportunity to apply
12 for, and operate, their own TANF Programs.

13 D. Every three years, the Navajo Nation prepares and submits a Tribal Family
14 Assistance Plan (“TFAP”) to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
15 Administration for Children and Families. The plan provides information on how the
16 Navajo Nation proposes to operate its TANF Program. The Navajo Nation’s current
17 Tribal Family Assistance Plan is for the period of October 1, 2021 to September 30,
18 2024.

19 E. The proposed amendments for the Pathway to Self-Reliance Policy Manual must be
20 updated to support the changes in the Tribal Family Assistance Plan, to make
21 necessary changes to meet the purposes and principles of Welfare Reform, and to
22 improve program services and assistance. A summary of the proposed major policy
23 changes is set forth in **Exhibit A**.

24 F. The proposed amendments to the Navajo Nation Department for Self-Reliance
25 Pathway to Self-Reliance Policy Manual is attached as **Exhibit B** and marked
26 appropriately using the underline and strike-through method.

27 G. The Navajo Nation Department of Justice has reviewed the proposed amendments
28 and deemed the amendments legally sufficient. Section 164 Review Form is attached
29 as **Exhibit C**.

1 H. The Navajo Nation Department for Self-Reliance has provided a clean copy of the
2 Pathway to Self-Reliance Policy Manual in its final amended form, attached as
3 **Exhibit D.**
4

5 **SECTION THREE. APPROVAL**

6 A. The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation
7 Council hereby approves and adopts amendments to the Pathway to Self-Reliance
8 Policy Manual, attached as **Exhibit B.**

9 B. The Navajo Nation Department for Self-Reliance is authorized to insert a paginated
10 *Table of Contents* for purposes of public readability of the Policy Manual.
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12 **SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE**

13 The amended Pathway to Self-Reliance Policy Manual shall become effective on the first
14 day of the first month following the approval of the Health, Education, and Human
15 Services Committee.
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17 **SECTION FIVE. SAVING CLAUSE**

18 If any provision of this Policy Manual is determined invalid by the Supreme Court of the
19 Navajo Nation, or by any Navajo Nation District Court without appeal to the Navajo
20 Nation Supreme Court, the remainder of this Policy Manual shall be the law of the
21 Navajo Nation.
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