

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0184-22_

SPONSOR: Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

TITLE An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, Naabik'iyáti' Committee, and Navajo Nation Council; Reaffirming Resolutions NABIN-69-18, NABIMY-27-19, and NABIAU-25-21, Requesting a Tribal Communication with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to Establish Direct Services on the Navajo Nation for Navajo Veterans

Date posted: September 29, 2022 at 5:05PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET
Tracking No. 0184-22

DATE: September 29, 2022

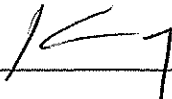
TITLE OF RESOLUTION: PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION; AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE, AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; REAFFIRMING RESOLUTIONS NABIN-69-18, NABIMY-27-19, AND NABIAU-25-21, REQUESTING A TRIBAL COMMUNICATION WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH DIRECT SERVICES ON THE NAVAJO NATION FOR NAVAJO VETERANS

PURPOSE: The purpose of this legislation is to reaffirms NABIN-69-18, NABINMY-27-19, and NABIAU-25-21. In addition, the Navajo Nation requests a Tribal Communication with the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish direct services on the Navajo Nation for Navajo veterans. Specific items to be included in the discussion are: Regional VA Office located on the Navajo Nation; a Veterans Hospital; Disability Support Services; Records Support Services; Veterans Cemetery; and, Veterans Group Homes.

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.

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

INTRODUCED BY



Primary Sponsor *Kee Allen Begay*

TRACKING NO. 0184-22

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE, AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; REAFFIRMING RESOLUTIONS NABIN-69-18, NABIMY-27-19, AND NABIAU-25-21, REQUESTING A TRIBAL COMMUNICATION WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH DIRECT SERVICES ON THE NAVAJO NATION FOR NAVAJO VETERANS

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Health, Education and Human Services Committee (“HEHSC”) as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered HEHSC to review and recommend resolutions regarding veterans and/or veteran services. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 400 (A), 401 (B)(6)(a) (2012).
- B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'iyáti' Committee to coordinate with all committees, Chapters, branches and entities concerned with all Navajo appearances and testimony before Congressional committees, and departments of the United States government. *See* 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A), 701 (A)(7)(8) (2015).
- C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation and shall supervise all powers delegated. 2 N.N.C. § 102.
- D. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the United States of America, Treaty of 1868, Aug. 12, 1868, 15 Stat. 667.

- 1 E. The Naabik'iyati' Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council passed NABIAU-25-
2 21 reaffirming Resolution NABIN-69-18 and NABIMY-27-19; requesting the United
3 States Veteran Affairs Administration establish direct services on the Navajo Nation
4 for Navajo veterans. *See* NABIAU-25-21 attached as **Exhibit 1**.
- 5 F. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs FY 2018 – 2024 Strategic Plan commits the
6 department to making its electronic and information technologies accessible to
7 individuals with disabilities in accordance with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act
8 (Title 29 U.S.C. § 794d) as amended in 1999.
- 9 G. A Tribal Communication is any other communication with tribal officials that does
10 not meet the criteria of tribal consultation is informal communication. This can
11 include listening sessions. *See* VA Directive 8603 attached as **Exhibit 2**.
- 12 H. Pursuant to 38 U.S.C § 501, *et al.*, and 38 C.F.R. Part 39, there is a mechanism for
13 Tribal Organizations to obtain a grant to establish a veterans' cemetery that meets the
14 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' national shrine standards of appearance that
15 will be owned by a Tribal Organization on trust land.
- 16 I. The Navajo Nation requests a Tribal Communication with the U.S. Department of
17 Veterans Affairs, to establish direct services on the Navajo Nation for Navajo
18 veterans.

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20 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 21 A. The 24th Navajo Nation Council reaffirms NABIN-69-18, NABINMY-27-19, and
22 NABIAU-25-21.
- 23 B. The Navajo Nation requests a Tribal Communication with the Department of
24 Veterans Affairs to establish direct services on the Navajo Nation for Navajo
25 veterans. Specific items to be included in the discussion are as follows:
- 26 a. Regional VA Office located on the Navajo Nation:
 - 27 i. Veterans Benefits Administration
 - 28 ii. Accredited Representatives – i.e.; Veterans Service Organization
 - 29 iii. Housing Benefit Program
 - 30 iv. Education and Training Opportunities

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- b. A Veterans Hospital
- c. Disability Support Services
- d. Records Support Services
- e. Veterans Cemetery
- f. Veterans Group Homes

C. The Navajo Nation authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker, Navajo Washington Office or their designees, and the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Executive Director, to request a Tribal Communication with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs within ninety (90) days of passage.

D. The Navajo Nation authorizes the Navajo Nation Veteran Administration Executive Director to seek external funding to establish a veteran's cemetery pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 501, *et al.*, and 38 C.F.R. Part 39. *See* 2 N.N.C. § 1032 (B) (8).