

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
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LEGISLATION NO: _0203-22_

SPONSOR: Amber Kanazbah Crotty

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Establishing the Naabik'iyáti' Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0203-22

DATE: October 19, 2022

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; ESTABLISHING THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' MISSING AND MURDERED DINÉ RELATIVES TASK FORCE

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will establish a three-branch multidiscipline task force, i.e., the Naabik'íyáti' Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force, whose primary responsibility is to develop a holistic approach to address the crisis of missing and murdered Navajo women, men, and children.

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: 10-25-22
Eligible for Action: 10-26-22

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

INTRODUCED BY

(Prime Sponsor)

✓
Ke. Allen Begay

TRACKING NO. 0203-22

AN ACTION
RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; ESTABLISHING THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' MISSING AND MURDERED DINÉ RELATIVES TASK FORCE

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and is empowered to serves as the oversight committee for task forces under the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation government, unless otherwise designated by Navajo Nation law, and to approve and amend the plans of operation thereof. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700(A) and 701(A)(5).
- B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is also empowered to coordinate all federal, county and state programs with other standing committees and branches of the Navajo Nation government to provide the most effective delivery of services to the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 701(A)(4).
- C. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is further empowered with the authority to delegate its authority as appropriate for efficiency and streamlining of government process to appropriate entities. 2 N.N.C. § 701(B).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- 1 A. As reported by the U.S. Department of Interior and U.S. Department of Justice, Native
2 Americans and Alaskan Natives people are at a disproportionate risk of experiencing
3 violence, murder, or going missing. [https://www.doi.gov/priorities/missing-and-](https://www.doi.gov/priorities/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-people)
4 [murdered-indigenous-people](https://www.doi.gov/priorities/missing-and-murdered-indigenous-people)
- 5 B. U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland recently stated that “(v)iolence
6 against Indigenous peoples is a crisis that has been underfunded for decades. Far too
7 often, murders and missing persons cases in Indian country go unsolved and
8 unaddressed, leaving families and communities devastated.”
9 [https://www.doi.gov/news/secretary-haaland-creates-new-missing-murdered-unit-](https://www.doi.gov/news/secretary-haaland-creates-new-missing-murdered-unit-pursue-justice-missing-or-murdered-american)
10 [pursue-justice-missing-or-murdered-american](https://www.doi.gov/news/secretary-haaland-creates-new-missing-murdered-unit-pursue-justice-missing-or-murdered-american)
- 11 C. Approximately 1,500 American Indian and Alaska Native missing persons have been
12 entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) throughout the U.S., and
13 approximately 2,700 cases of murder and non-negligent homicide offenses have been
14 reported to the Federal Government’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program.
15 [https://www.doi.gov/news/secretary-haaland-creates-new-missing-murdered-unit-](https://www.doi.gov/news/secretary-haaland-creates-new-missing-murdered-unit-pursue-justice-missing-or-murdered-american)
16 [pursue-justice-missing-or-murdered-american](https://www.doi.gov/news/secretary-haaland-creates-new-missing-murdered-unit-pursue-justice-missing-or-murdered-american)
- 17 D. In October of 2020, the 116th Congress passed Public Law 116-166 establishing the
18 “Not Invisible Act of 2019” to, among other things, “ensure prevention efforts, grants,
19 and programs of Federal agencies related to the murder of, trafficking of and missing
20 Indians consider the unique challenges of combating crime, violence, and human
21 trafficking of Indians and on Indian lands faced by Tribal communities, urban centers,
22 the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tribal law enforcement, Federal law enforcement, and
23 State and local law enforcement”. **Exhibit A.**
- 24 E. The Naabik’íyáti’ Committee recognizes the need for the Navajo Nation to be actively
25 involved in the efforts to comprehensively and holistically combat the murders and
26 missing cases of Diné people on and off the Navajo Nation. The Naabik’íyáti’
27 Committee further recognizes that these efforts can most effectively be developed,
28 coordinated, and implemented through the creation of a Missing and Murdered Diné
29 Relatives Task Force with representative from all three Branches of the Navajo Nation
30 government, as well as community member representatives.

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2 **SECTION THREE. ESTABLISHING THE MISSING AND MURDERED DINÉ**
3 **RELATIVES TASK FORCE**

- 4 A. The Navajo Nation hereby establishes the Naabik'íyáti' Missing and Murdered Diné
5 Relatives Task Force ("MMDR Task Force").
- 6 B. The MMDR Task Force shall continue in perpetuity unless otherwise dissolved by
7 resolution of the Naabik'íyáti' Committee.
- 8 C. The general purpose of the MMDR Task Force is to coordinate a dynamic holistic
9 approach to help combat the missing and murdered Diné relative crisis on and off the
10 Navajo Nation. **Exhibit B.**
- 11 D. The specific purposes of the MMDR Task Force, include, but are not limited to, the
12 following:
- 13 A. Develop recommendations to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee and Office of the
14 President and Vice-President on actions that the Navajo Nation government can
15 take to respond to and combat instances of missing Diné persons, murder, and
16 human trafficking on and off the Navajo Nation.
- 17 B. Develop a non-profit data institute to collect the stories and community-based
18 knowledge to aid the Navajo public and Navajo Nation leadership in
19 understanding the scope of missing and murdered Diné relatives, as well as to
20 develop solution-based pathways for healing and justice through wrap around
21 services, programming, and prevention;
- 22 C. Develop, finalize, and continually update a missing persons toolkit easily
23 accessible by all Navajo members and Navajo Nation residents;
- 24 D. Advocate for and develop programs, including victim's services and victim
25 advocates, that support families with a missing or murdered Diné relative;
- 26 E. Advocate for federal, state, and tribal funding for an inter-coordinated tribal
27 information management system with judicial data tracking systems and
28 training;
- 29 F. Advocate for federal, state, and tribal funding for transitional housing for
30 victims of violent crimes and their families;

1 G. Secure information and propose data-sharing agreements with state and federal
2 law enforcement agencies; and

3 H. Expand partnerships with other internal and external entities, including state
4 and federal law enforcement agencies, that are also striving to resolve the
5 missing and murdered indigenous person crisis.

6 E. The MMDR Task Force Authority shall have the authorities necessary to implement
7 and accomplish the purposes set forth above and specific responsibilities and
8 authorities as follows:

9 A. The MMDR Task Force shall conduct a study to determine how to increase
10 resources for reporting and identifying missing and murdered Diné relatives on
11 and off the Navajo Nation.

12 B. The MMDR Task Force shall collaborate with programs, departments and
13 entities within the Navajo Nation and federal and state agencies to determine
14 the scope of the missing and murdered Diné relatives crisis, identify barriers to
15 address the crisis and create partnerships to improve the reporting of and the
16 investigation of missing and murdered Diné relatives.

17 C. The MMDR Task Force may collaborate with programs and departments within
18 the state and federal government to improve MMDR's processes for
19 information sharing and coordination of resources in regard to reporting and
20 investigating cases of missing and murdered Diné relatives.

21 D. The MMDR Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
22 Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Office of the President and Vice-President at
23 the end of the second and fourth quarters of each Navajo Nation fiscal year.

24 F. The MMDR Task Force shall consist of twelve (12) members as follows:

25 1. A representative of the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council;

26 2. A representative from the Health, Education and Human Services Committee
27 of the Navajo Nation Council;

28 3. A representative from the Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation
29 Council;

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- 1 4. A representative from the Office of the Speaker selected by the Speaker of the
- 2 Navajo Nation Council;
- 3 5. A representative from the Office of the President and Vice-President selected
- 4 by the President of the Navajo Nation;
- 5 6. A representative from the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch selected by the Chief
- 6 Justice of the Navajo Nation;
- 7 7. The Chief of the Navajo Nation Police Department or their designee;
- 8 8. The Chief Prosecutor of the Navajo Nation or their designee;
- 9 9. The Chief Public Defender or their designee; and
- 10 10. Three representatives from Navajo communities who have extensive
- 11 experience and knowledge of missing and murdered Diné relatives. Such
- 12 community representatives shall be selected by a majority of the MMDR Task
- 13 Force.
- 14

15 **SECTION FOUR. TASK FORCE OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

- 16 A. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee representative shall be Chairperson of the MMDR Task
- 17 Force. Other officers of the MMDR Task Force shall be selected by its members.
- 18 B. The MMDR Task Force shall operate by resolution with a majority of Task Force
- 19 members constituting a quorum.
- 20 C. The MMDR Task Force shall establish its own meeting rules
- 21 D. MMDR Task Force members shall not be compensated, but shall receive
- 22 reimbursement for mileage, meeting, and travel expenses at the rates set forth in the
- 23 applicable Navajo Nation Travel Policies.
- 24 E. MMDR Task Force members shall serve until the next Navajo Nation Council is seated.
- 25 MMDR Task Force members may be removed for lack of attendance by a two-thirds
- 26 (2/3) vote of all Task Force members.
- 27 F. The Office of the Speaker and Office of Legislative Services shall provide technical
- 28 assistance, clerical, and administrative assistance. The Navajo Nation Department of
- 29 Justice and the Office of Legislative Counsel shall provide legal assistance and
- 30 guidance for the MMDR Task Force.

1 G. Navajo Nation law, policies, and regulations shall apply to the MMDR Task Force and
2 its members.

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4 **SECTION FIVE. AMENDMENTS**

5 Any amendments to the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force enacted herein
6 shall be approved by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

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8 **SECTION SIX. EFFECTIVE DATE**

9 The provisions of this legislation shall become effective in accordance with 2 N.N.C. §
10 221(C).