

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0040-23_

SPONSOR: Crystalyne Curley

TITLE: An Act Relating to the Naabik'iyáti Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the Nominations of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo Nation President to the Eastern Navajo Land Commission

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET
Tracking No. 0040-23

DATE: March 15, 2023

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACT RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE NOMINATIONS OF THE SPEAKER OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT TO THE EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will confirm the appointment of six (6) members, (5 Council Delegates and 1 Presidential appointee) to the Eastern Navajo Land Commission.

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: 03-20-23
Eligible for Action: 03-21-23

Naabik'iyati' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
2 25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – First Year, 2023

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 
5 _____
6 (Prime Sponsor)

7
8 TRACKING NO. 0040-23

9
10 AN ACT
11 RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION
12 COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE NOMINATIONS OF THE SPEAKER OF THE
13 NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT TO THE
14 EASTERN NAVAJO LAND COMMISSION

15
16 BE IT ENACTED:

17
18 **SECTION ONE. AUTHORITIES**

- 19 A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C.
20 §102.
21 B. A proposed resolution that requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council shall be
22 assigned to the Naabik'iyati' Committee before it is heard by the Navajo Nation
23 Council. 2 N.N.C. §164 (A)(9),
24 C. The Eastern Navajo Land Commission shall be composed of “Navajo Nation Council
25 Delegates representing the so-called Checkerboard Area of the Navajo Nation,
26 nominated by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and confirmed by the Navajo
27 Nation Council” and “one member shall be an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation
28 skilled in land and/or energy matters, selected by the President of the Navajo Nation
29 and confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council.” 2 N.N.C. §§ 862 (B) and (C).
30

- 1 D. The six (6) Council Delegate representatives on the Eastern Navajo Land Commission
2 shall consist of one Navajo Nation Council member from each of the following areas:
3 1. Area I: Counselor, Huerfano and Nageezi Chapters;
4 2. Area II: Becenti, Crownpoint, Lake Valley, Nahodishgish, Standing Rock and
5 White Rock Chapters;
6 3. Area III: Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon/Star Lake and White Horse Lake
7 Chapters;
8 4. Area IV: Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Iyanbito, Smith Lake, Littlewater,
9 Mariano Lake, Pinedale, and Thoreau Chapters;
10 5. Area V: Bread Springs, Chichiltah, Rock Springs, Churchrock, Manuelito, Red
11 Rock, and Tsayatoh Chapters;
12 6. Area VI: Alamo, Ramah and Tohajiilee Chapters.
13 2 N.N.C. § 862(B).

14
15 **SECTION 2. FINDINGS**

- 16 A. The Navajo Nation Council was reduced in membership from 88 delegates to 24
17 delegates, which required a change in standing committees, Resolution C0-45-12, but
18 also resulted in a realignment of Chapter representation which currently provides for
19 five (5) Council Delegates representing Chapters in the Eastern Agency, otherwise
20 known as the so-called Checkerboard Area. Resolution CMA-10-15, incorporated
21 herein by reference, first implemented the chapter realignment for the Eastern Navajo
22 Land Commission.
- 23 B. Each of the Navajo Nation Council Delegates shall serve as a member of the
24 Commission concurrent with his or her term as a Council Delegate and until his or her
25 successor is confirmed. 2 N.N.C. § 862(D).
- 26 C. The President of the Navajo Nation shall also select an enrolled member of the Navajo
27 Nation, skilled in land and/or energy matters, to sit on the Commission; the President's
28 selection shall be confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 862 (C).
- 29 D. The Commission shall appoint a Chairperson and Vice- Chairperson from among its
30 members, and may establish committees from among its members if deemed

1 appropriate by the Commission to facilitate the business of the Commission. 2 N.N.C.
2 § 862(E).

3 E. The powers and duties of the Eastern Navajo Land Commission are found at 2 N.N.C.
4 § 863 (A-J).

5
6 **SECTION THREE. NOMINATIONS TO THE EASTERN NAVAJO LAND**
7 **COMMISSION**

8 A. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council nominates the following Navajo Nation
9 Council Delegates to the Eastern Navajo Land Commission pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §
10 862(B) and in consideration of the Chapter representation realignment as a result of
11 the reduction in membership of the Navajo Nation Council:

- 12 1. Area II (Becenti, Lake Valley, Nahodisgish, Standing Rock, White Rock,
13 Huerfano, Nageezi, Crownpoint): Hon. Danny Simpson
- 14 2. Area III (Littlewater, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake, Baca/Prewitt,
15 Casamero Lake, Ojo Encino, Counselor): Hon. George Tolth
- 16 3. Area IV (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau):
17 Hon. Steven R. Arviso
- 18 4. Area V (Baahaali, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh):
19 Hon. Seth Damon
- 20 5. Area VI (Alamo, Ramah, Tohajiilee): Hon. Norman Begay

21 C. The Navajo Nation President nominates Edmund Yazzie to the Eastern Navajo Land
22 Commission.

23 D. The nomination letter by the President of the Navajo Nation is attached as **Exhibit A**.

24
25 **SECTION FOUR. CONFIRMATION OF EASTERN NAVAJO LAND**
26 **COMMISSION**

27 A. The Navajo Nation confirms the nominations of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation
28 Council to the Eastern Navajo Land Commission as:

- 29 6. Area II (Becenti, Lake Valley, Nahodisgish, Standing Rock, White Rock,
30 Huerfano, Nageezi, Crownpoint): Hon. Danny Simpson

- 1 7. Area III (Littlewater, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake, Baca/Prewitt,
2 Casamero Lake, Ojo Encino, Counselor): Hon. George Tolth
- 3 8. Area IV (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau):
4 Hon. Steven R. Arviso
- 5 9. Area V (Baahaali, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh):
6 Hon. Seth Damon
- 7 10. Area VI (Alamo, Ramah, Tohajiilee): Hon. Norman Begay

- 8 B. The Navajo Nation Council confirms the Navajo Nation President's nomination of
9 Edmund Yazzie to the Eastern Navajo Land Commission.
- 10 C. The Navajo Nation Council Delegates confirmed to the Eastern Navajo Commission
11 shall serve as a member of the Commission concurrent with their term as a Council
12 Delegate and until a successor is confirmed. 2 N.N.C. §862 (D).
- 13 D. The Navajo Nation Presidential nominee shall serve as a member of the Commission
14 until a successor is confirmed.