

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0086-23\_

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Removing the Speaker of the 25th Navajo Nation Council; Selecting a Speaker for the 25th Navajo Nation Council**

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## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0086-23

**DATE:** April 7, 2023

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; REMOVING THE SPEAKER OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; SELECTING A SPEAKER FOR THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this legislation is to remove the current Speaker of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council and select a new Speaker for the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council.

**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: Johnson  
Website Posting Time/Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posting End Date: 04-26-23  
Eligible for Action : 04-27-23

Naabik'iyati' Committee  
Thence  
Navajo Nation Council

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

3  
4 INTRODUCED BY

5   
6 \_\_\_\_\_  
7 (Prime Sponsor)

8  
9 TRACKING NO. 0086-23

10  
11 AN ACTION  
12 RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION  
13 COUNCIL; REMOVING THE SPEAKER OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION  
14 COUNCIL; SELECTING A SPEAKER FOR THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION  
15 COUNCIL .

16  
17 **BE IT ENACTED:**

18  
19 **SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY**

- 20 A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation and shall  
21 consist of 24 delegates. 2 N.N.C. §102 (A).  
22 B. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council is selected by and serves at the pleasure of  
23 the Navajo Nation Council and shall serve for a term of two years. *See* 2 N.N.C. §§ 282  
24 (A) and (C).  
25 C. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall be a member of the Navajo Nation  
26 Council in good standing. 2 N.N.C. § 281 (B).  
27 D. The Navajo Nation Council has all powers to discipline and/or regulate the conduct of  
28 its members. 2 N.N.C. § 102(D).  
29 E. The Speaker may be removed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full membership of the  
30 Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 286 (A).

- 1 F. The Navajo Nation Council has the authority to promulgate rules, regulations and  
2 procedures for the conduct of its meetings and that of its committees. 2 N.N.C. § 102  
3 (E).
- 4 G. If a vacancy should occur in the Office of the Speaker, the Navajo Nation Council shall  
5 select and confirm from among its members a successor for the remainder of the term.  
6 2 N.N.C. § 286 (B).
- 7 H. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council  
8 with responsibility to recommend resolutions to the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C.  
9 §§ 700 (A) and 701 (A)(3).

10  
11 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 12 A. When the members of the Navajo Nation Council select and confirm their Speaker,  
13 they do so with the expectation that the selected Speaker can be trusted to be their  
14 Natahnii' and lead the Council and the Navajo people by example with honor, integrity,  
15 veracity and reliability at all times.
- 16 B. The Honorable Crystalyne Curley was selected as Speaker of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation  
17 Council on January 23, 2023 pursuant to Resolution No. CJA-02-23, attached as  
18 **Exhibit 1.**
- 19 C. Since her selection as Speaker, the Honorable Curley has not lived up to the  
20 expectations placed on her by the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council. Some examples of  
21 Speaker Curley not living up to the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council's expectations include:
- 22 1. Speaker Curley's and Office of the Speaker staff's lack of communication with  
23 the Delegates of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council, despite repeated requests by  
24 Council Delegates to improve such communications;
  - 25 2. Speaker Curley has not provided her stance on the use of alcohol by Office of the  
26 Speaker staff, despite repeated requests by Council Delegates to do so;
  - 27 3. Speaker Curley did not immediately address safety and re-traumatizing concerns  
28 raised by Council Delegates related to a previous sexual harassment allegation  
29 against a member of the Office of the Speaker's staff; and  
30

1           4. Speaker Curley's inexperience and lack of leadership skills are not furthering the  
2           work of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council and the Navajo People.

3           D. The Navajo Nation Council has determined that removing Speaker Curley as Speaker  
4           of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council is the appropriate path to restore Hózhó within the  
5           Navajo Nation Council and to revitalize the Council's service to the Navajo People.  
6

7           **SECTION THREE. REMOVING THE SPEAKER OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION**  
8           **COUNCIL**

9           The 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council hereby removes Crystalyne Curley as Speaker of the 25<sup>th</sup>  
10          Navajo Nation Council pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 286 (A).  
11

12          **SECTION FOUR. SELECTION OF SPEAKER OF THE NAVAJO NATION**  
13          **COUNCIL**

14          A. In order that the selection of a Speaker for the 25th Navajo Nation Council be  
15          conducted in an orderly and efficient manner, the selection process shall comply with  
16          the process adopted in CJA-02-23, **Exhibit 1 (B)**.

17          B. Honorable \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby selected and confirmed as the  
18          Speaker of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Council pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 286 (B).

19          C. Honorable \_\_\_\_\_ shall serve as Speaker until the end of the  
20          term of the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council and shall exercise all authorities of the Speaker  
21          as set forth in Title Two of the Navajo Nation Code.  
22

23          **SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE**

24          This Action shall be effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221 (A).  
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