

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0108-23\_

SPONSOR: Carl Slater

**TITLE: An Act Relating to the Law & Order, Health, Education, and Human Services, Budget and Finance, and Naabik'íyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving Amendments to the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund at 12 N.N.C §1171- §1178**

*Date posted:* May 16, 2023 at 5:28PM

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## **SUMMARY OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Tracking No. 0108-23

Date: May 15, 2023

Re: **AN ACT RELATING TO THE LAW & ORDER, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES, BUDGET AND FINANCE, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS TRUST FUND AT 12 N.N.C. §1171 - §1178**

### **Purpose of this Legislation:**

to approve amendments to the Veterans Trust Fund.

OLC No. 23-107-1

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD 5/20  
Website Posting Time/Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Posting End Date: 05-21-23  
Eligible for Action: 05-22-23

Law & Order Committee  
Thence  
Health Education & Human Services Committee  
Thence  
Budget & Finance Committee  
Thence  
Naabik'iyati' Committee  
Thence  
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - First Year, 2023

Introduced by:



(Prime Sponsor)

Tracking No. 0108-23

**AN ACT  
RELATING TO THE LAW & ORDER, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN  
SERVICES, BUDGET AND FINANCE, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES,  
AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO  
THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS TRUST FUND AT 12 N.N.C. §1171 - §1178**

**BE IT ENACTED:**

**SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY**

- A. The Law & Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council reviews and recommends proposed amendments to the Navajo Nation Code. 2 N.N.C. §600(B)(14).
- B. The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee has oversight authority over veterans' services. 2 N.N.C. §400(A), §400(B)(6)(a).
- C. The Budget and Finance Committee is authorized to review and recommend to the Council resolutions that strengthen the fiscal and financial position of the Navajo Nation and promote the efficient use of the financial resources of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §300(A), §300(C)(3).
- D. The Naabik'iyati' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council reviews all proposed legislation that requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(9).
- E. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation, and approves amendments to Navajo Nation law. 2 N.N.C. §102(A), 2 N.N.C. §164(A).

1 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 2 A. Due to a different statutory interpretation, the amount of available funds for veterans’  
3 services was much lower during FY2022.
- 4 B. The needs of Navajo veterans have increased since the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund  
5 was first established in Resolution No. CJY-46-98.
- 6 C. The Department of Justice, the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration, and the Office of  
7 the Controller have collaborated and prepared revised language in the Veterans Trust Fund  
8 statute to address the differing statutory interpretations, and to avoid a shortfall in funding  
9 for veterans’ services.
- 10 D. The attached **EXHIBIT 1** is the version that the group prepared, and that DOJ has submitted  
11 for legislative approval. This version was reviewed and deemed “legally sufficient” in  
12 December of 2022.
- 13 E. There is a need to ensure that there are sufficient funds available to allocate for veterans’  
14 services from the Veterans Trust Fund. Therefore, the Navajo Nation finds it in the best  
15 interest of the Navajo Nation and Navajo veterans to approve the amendments to the Veterans  
16 Trust Fund, attached hereto as **EXHIBIT 1**.

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18 **SECTION THREE. APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE NAVAJO NATION**  
19 **VETERANS TRUST FUND AT 12 N.N.C. §1171 - §1178**

20 The Navajo Nation hereby approves the amendments to the Veterans Trust Fund, at 12 N.N.C.  
21 §1171 - §1178, as shown in the attached **EXHIBIT 1**.

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23 **SECTION FOUR. CODIFICATION**

24 The provisions of this Act that amend or adopt new sections of the Navajo Nation Code shall  
25 be codified by the office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall  
26 incorporate such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.

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28 **SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE**

29 This Act shall become effective in accordance with 2 N.N.C. §221(B).  
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1 **SECTION SIX. SAVING CLAUSE**

2 If any part of this Act is invalidated by the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation, or by any  
3 Navajo Nation District Court without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, the  
4 remainder of this Act shall be the law of the Navajo Nation.

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