

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0011-24_

SPONSOR: Carl R. Slater

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Approving and Adopting the Legislative Priorities of the Navajo Nation Relating to the State of Arizona for 2024

Date posted: January 11, 2024 at 9:15PM

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Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0011-24

DATE: January 11, 2024

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE NAVAJO NATION RELATING TO THE STATE OF ARIZONA FOR 2024

PURPOSE: The purpose of this proposed resolution is to approve the Navajo Nation's 2024 legislative priorities for the State of Arizona.

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
Website Posting Time/Date
Posting End Date: 01-16-24
Eligible for Action: 01-17-24

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
2 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL— Second Year, 2024

3
4 INTRODUCED BY

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6 _____

7 Primary Sponsor



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9 TRACKING NO. 0011-24

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11 AN ACTION
12 RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; APPROVING AND
13 ADOPTING THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE NAVAJO NATION
14 RELATING TO THE STATE OF ARIZONA FOR 2024

15
16 WHEREAS:

- 17 A. Statements of policy, enactment of positive law, intergovernmental agreements, budget
18 resolutions, and reallocations, must be reviewed and approved by resolution by the
19 appropriate standing committee(s) and the Navajo Nation Council except as otherwise
20 provided herein. 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A).
- 21 B. Statements of policy are written statements submitted to federal, state or local
22 governments by a Navajo Nation official stating the official position of the Navajo
23 Nation on proposed legislation or other action by that government. 2 N.N.C. § 110 (W).
- 24 C. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation
25 Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'iyáti' Committee to assist
26 and coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to
27 proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C.
28 §§ 700 (A) and 701(A)(6).
- 29 D. Each of the 25th Navajo Nation Council Delegates representing Arizona chapters and
30 communities recommended Arizona Legislative Priorities for 2024 for their respective

1 area(s) of oversight to the Arizona Caucus of the Navajo Nation Council; after review
2 and discussion, the Arizona Caucus compiled the recommendations into the 2024
3 Arizona Legislative Priorities attached and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**.

4
5 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

6 The Navajo Nation hereby approves the Navajo Nation’s legislative priorities relating to
7 the State of Arizona for 2024, attached as **Exhibit A**, as determined by the 25th Navajo
8 Nation Council and authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker,
9 and their designees, and the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee members, to advocate the position of
10 the Navajo Nation with the State of Arizona, State of Arizona Legislature, Arizona State
11 Agencies, and the State of Arizona Governor’s Office for the preservation of funding and
12 policies in the Navajo Nation’s priority areas.

EXHIBIT A

- 1. Settling all water rights within the State of Arizona**
- 2. Empowerment Scholarship Accounts**
 - a. Support for the implementation of measures to ensure the accountability of funds for Arizona's private school voucher program, known as the Empowerment Scholarship Accounts, and increased funding for state funded schools on the Navajo Nation
- 3. Address fraudulent sober living facilities in partnership with the State of Arizona**
 - a. Supporting the Arizona Attorney General's efforts to prosecute and convict perpetrators of fraudulent sober living homes
 - b. Provide shelter and mental health, detox, and medical services to those in need
 - c. Assist in returning members of the Navajo Nation to their home communities if they wish to return home
- 4. Creating tax parity with the state jurisdictions**
 - a. Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT) reform to include revenue for the Navajo Nation
 - b. Increase Fuel Excise Tax revenue distribution for the Navajo Nation to support road maintenance and improvements (i.e. school bus routes)
 - c. Address dual taxation to support economic development on the Navajo Nation
- 5. Education**
 - a. Support for Impact Aid funding for schools on the Navajo Nation
 - b. Disaggregate data based on "Navajo" (i.e., enrollment, credentials, teachers, etc.)
 - c. Advocate for bilingual education initiatives
 - d. Support Arizona Office of Indian Education on implementing Consultation with tribes
 - e. Supporting Navajo representation on state commissions/committees
- 6. Missing and Murdered Diné (Navajo) Relatives**
 - a. Collaboration with the Navajo Nation Council's Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force
 - b. Support for the implementation of the Navajo Nation Victim's Rights Act of 2023
 - c. Domestic violence and human trafficking prevention
- 7. Infrastructure**
 - a. Roads
 - i. Construct more bus pullouts on state roads to increase safety for all commuters
 - ii. Pedestrian safety and signage improvements along state routes and within state public school campuses
 - iii. Repaint fog-lines and pavement markings for safety
 - iv. Improve and repair lighting at all state highway junctions and intersections
 - v. Maintenance yards – follow up with specific community impacted
 - vi. Secure support for additional funding through the Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) for Apache, Navajo, and Coconino Counties
 - vii. Supporting additional MOAs with local agents to provide road maintenance assistance, especially during the winter season

- b. Broadband
 - i. Secure Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program funding to expand high-speed internet access across the Navajo Nation
 - ii. Briefing on smart highways
 - iii. Deployment on Navajo and engagement on federal grants
- c. Water Infrastructure/Water
 - i. Arizona State Water Infrastructure Finance Authority
 - 1. Support eligibility of tribes and support further allocations to the fund
 - ii. Support for funding for water conservation projects
 - 1. Earthen dams
 - 2. Recharge of aquifer
 - 3. Erosion control
 - 4. Conserving/retaining water/watersheds/well rehab - ANEZ
 - iii. Ensure the safety of community/school water source in Sanders, Arizona

8. Elections and Voter Protection

- a. Support for the Navajo Nation's comments and revisions to the 2023 Arizona Election Procedure Manual submitted to the Arizona Secretary of State
- b. Apache County same day voter registration

9. Health Care

- a. Establish substance abuse/addiction detox, treatment, and rehabilitation centers on the Navajo Nation
- b. AHCCCS
 - i. Uphold consistent tribal consultation with the Navajo Nation
 - ii. Support for home care and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
 - iii. State/Navajo Nation regulatory
 - iv. Fraudulent billing for services
 - v. Home retrofits
- c. Increase support for Diné traditional healing and teachings to help improve the overall health of our people
- d. Promote education and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and viruses across the Navajo Nation
- e. Continue advocating for resources to prevent and mitigate the spread of Covid-19, RSV, and other viruses

10. Public Safety

- a. Support for cross commissioning/crossing deputizing agreements
- b. Support for new public safety facility for the Navajo Police Department in Window Rock, Arizona
- c. Collaborate with the State of Arizona to promote and uphold the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (S.O.R.N.A.) to protect children and the public from sex offenders on the Navajo Nation
- d. Completion of police substations to increase public safety presence in rural areas

- e. Work with state agencies to prevent human trafficking
- f. Support for fire emergency stations and personnel

11. Support for Navajo Veterans

- a. Improve and expedite service delivery time for veterans
- b. Secure additional funding for the completion of the “Nabaahii Bi’ghan” veterans nursing home, located in Chinle, Arizona. The Navajo Nation appropriated \$29 million in 2022 and an additional \$20 million is needed for the completion of construction.
- c. Support for education and workforce training for veterans, secure educational funding from states and federal VA funds
- d. Support for medical, behavioral, mental, and social services

12. Elder Services/Senior Care

- a. Meet with state agencies on regular basis
- b. Increase funding for DALTCS programs reimbursement rates
- c. Construction and operation of nursing homes for Navajo elders on the Navajo Nation
- d. Tri-state agreement
- e. Reimbursement rates for Title XX
- f. Funding to support the growth of DALTCS/ALTCS

13. Financial Literacy and Education

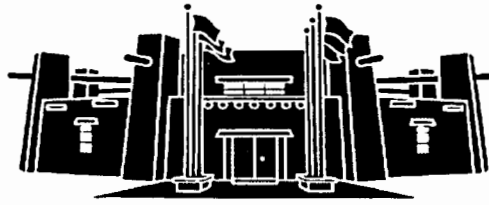
- a. Request for state resources to support the schools’ deployment of these services
- b. Increase access and data from state

14. Protection of Navajo Sacred/Cultural Sites

- a. Protection of Doko’o’oosłiíd (San Francisco Peaks)
- b. Little Colorado River Confluence


15. Arizona State Parks and Trails Grant Funding

- a. Secure state funding for outdoor recreation (i.e. Heritage Trails Non-motorized Program, Heritage Environmental Education Program, Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreational Trails Program, etc.)



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Carl R. Slater, Council Delegate
25th Navajo Nation Council

FROM: 
Kristen A. Lowell, Principal Attorney
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: January 11, 2024

SUBJECT: **AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE;
APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF
THE NAVAJO NATION RELATING TO THE STATE OF ARIZONA
FOR 2024**

As requested, I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. Based on existing law and review of documents submitted, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. As with any action of government however, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge.

Please ensure that this particular resolution request is precisely what you want. You are encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction.

The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) based on the standing committees' powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§301, 401, 501, 601 and 701. Nevertheless, "the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall introduce [the proposed resolution] into the legislative process by assigning it to the respective oversight committee(s) of the Navajo Nation Council having authority over the matters for proper consideration." 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

If the proposed resolution is unacceptable to you, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of the changes you would like made to the proposed resolution.