

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0012-24\_

SPONSOR: Crystalayne Curley

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Approving the Navajo Nation Legislative Branch Media Policy & Procedures**

***Date posted:*** January 12, 2024 at 4:42PM

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**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Tracking No. 0012-24

DATE: January 12, 2024

**RE: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE;  
APPROVING THE NAVAJO NATION LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
MEDIA POLICY & PROCEDURES**

**Purpose of this Legislation:**

to approve the Legislative Branch Media Policy & Procedures developed by the Office of the Speaker.

OLC No. 24-017-1

Website Posting Time/Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Eligible for Action: 01/18/24

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

2 25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Second Year, 2024

3 Introduced by:

4  
5 \_\_\_\_\_  
6 (Prime Sponsor)

7  
8 Tracking No. 0017-24 

9  
10 AN ACTION

11 RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; APPROVING THE  
12 NAVAJO NATION LEGISLATIVE BRANCH MEDIA POLICY & PROCEDURES

13  
14 **BE IT ENACTED:**

15  
16 **SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY**

- 17 A. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council serves as the Branch Chief for the Navajo Nation
- 18 Legislative Branch, and exercises administrative authority over the Legislative Branch and
- 19 matters involving the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §285(A).
- 20 B. The Speaker presides over all Navajo Nation Council meetings and all Naabik'iyáti'
- 21 Committee meetings. 2 N.N.C. §285(B)(1).
- 22 C. The Speaker also has the authority to direct and supervise the personnel and programs under
- 23 the Legislative Branch as provided by law. 2 N.N.C. §285(B)(2).
- 24 D. The Office of the Speaker provides support and assistance to the Speaker in carrying out her
- 25 duties. Navajo Nation Office of the Speaker Plan of Operation, Resolution No. NABIAU-
- 26 25-23, dated August 29, 2023. **EXHIBIT A.**
- 27 E. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and has
- 28 oversight authority over the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation, including the authority
- 29 to promulgate rules and regulations for the Legislative Branch. 2 N.N.C. §700(A), 2 N.N.C.
- 30 §701(A)(5).

1 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

2 A. The Office of the Speaker has prepared the proposed “Legislative Branch Media Policy &  
3 Procedures” (draft attached hereto as **EXHIBIT B**).

4 B. The Office of the Speaker has developed this draft in response to certain incidents in which  
5 members of the public media insisted on placing themselves close to Council Delegates  
6 during Navajo Nation Council meetings, and broadcasting such meetings to the public in real  
7 time. Such incidents raised serious concerns regarding logistics, legally required  
8 confidentiality for certain matters, the need to maintain an atmosphere that facilitates free  
9 and open discussion among delegates, and other issues related to live broadcasting of Navajo  
10 Nation Council meetings by individuals who are not members of the Council or support staff.

11 C. The Legislative Branch recognizes that open meetings are in keeping with Ke’ and with Diné  
12 Bi Beenahaz’áanii. The Legislative Branch understands the traditional practice that Navajo  
13 leaders shall have respect and reverence for their community, and they shall maintain open  
14 communication with the Navajo People, keeping them informed about matters affecting  
15 them. However, a written policy is necessary to provide guidance for both Navajo Nation  
16 staff and members of the public media, and to ensure that no meetings are disrupted or  
17 delayed due to media interference and that the official business of the Navajo Nation is not  
18 hampered.

19 D. The Office of the Speaker determined that a written media policy is needed to address such  
20 circumstances in a fair, reasonable, and consistent manner, with due respect to members of  
21 the public media. The Legislative Branch finds the attached Legislative Branch Media Policy  
22 to be in the best interest of the Navajo Nation and the Navajo People.

23  
24 **SECTION THREE. APPROVING THE NAVAJO NATION LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**  
25 **MEDIA POLICY & PROCEDURES**

26 A. The Navajo Nation hereby approves and adopts the Legislative Branch Media Policy &  
27 Procedures attached hereto as **EXHIBIT B**.

28 B. The approved Legislative Branch Media Policy & Procedures may be amended at any time  
29 by a duly adopted Resolution of the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee.

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1 **SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE**

2 This Action shall become effective as provided in 2 N.N.C. §221(B) and 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(17).

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4 **SECTION FIVE. SAVING CLAUSE**

5 If any portion of this Action is determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, or by  
6 a District Court of the Navajo Nation without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, the  
7 remainder of this Action shall be the law of the Navajo Nation.