

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0034-24_

SPONSOR: Amber Kanazbah Crotty

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee; Supporting and Requesting Amendments to New Mexico House Bill 39; "Making Appropriations to State Institutions of Higher Education, Tribal Colleges and the Public Education Department to Comply with the Court's Rulings in the Consolidated Martinez and Yazzie V. The State of New Mexico Lawsuit by Improving Educational Outcomes for Certain Public School and Higher Education Students and Families."

Date posted: February 02, 2024 at 2:46PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0034-24

DATE: February 2, 2024

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING AND REQUESTING AMENDMENTS TO NEW MEXICO HOUSE BILL 39; "MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRIBAL COLLEGES AND THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO COMPLY WITH THE COURT'S RULINGS IN THE CONSOLIDATED *MARTINEZ AND YAZZIE V. THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO* LAWSUIT BY IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL AND HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS AND FAMILIES."

Final Authority: Naabik'íyáti' Committee

Vote Requirement: Simple Majority

PURPOSE: The purpose of this proposed resolution is to voice support for, and request amendment to New Mexico House Bill 39.

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.

Website Posting Time/Date _____

Posting End Date: 02-07-24

Eligible for Action: 02-08-24

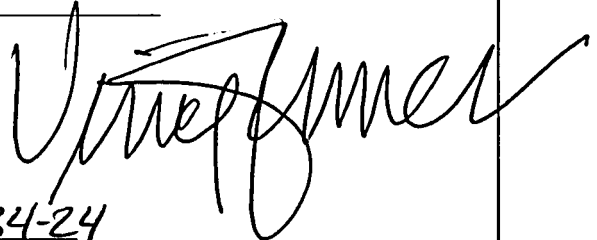
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PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Second Year, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

(Sponsor)



TRACKING NO. 0034-24

**AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE;
SUPPORTING AND REQUESTING AMENDMENTS TO NEW MEXICO
HOUSE BILL 39; "MAKING APPROPRIATIONS TO STATE INSTITUTIONS
OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TRIBAL COLLEGES AND THE PUBLIC
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO COMPLY WITH THE COURT'S RULINGS
IN THE CONSOLIDATED *MARTINEZ AND YAZZIE V. THE STATE OF NEW
MEXICO* LAWSUIT BY IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR
CERTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL AND HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS AND
FAMILIES."**

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered the Naabik'iyáti' Committee to coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700(A), 701(A)(6).
- B. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the State of New Mexico.

- 1 C. New Mexico House Bill 39, (“House Bill 39”) attached as **Exhibit A**, was introduced
2 to make appropriations to public postsecondary educational institutions, including
3 tribal colleges and universities. The aim is to support educator workforce and school
4 leadership development, health and wellness, culturally responsive frameworks, and
5 Indigenous college access initiatives.
- 6 D. The Navajo Nation supports the appropriations in House Bill 39, as well as the
7 purposes of the appropriations.
- 8 E. The Navajo Nation notes, however, that the significant issues section of the Fiscal
9 Impact Report for House Bill 39 provides, in relevant part, “[o]ther appropriations
10 within the bill, such as the \$750 thousand allocation to UNM for school of
11 architecture operations, do not appear to directly address the findings in the Yazzie-
12 Martinez lawsuit.” The Navajo Nation disagrees with this assessment as the UNM
13 School of Architecture Indigenous Planning and Design Institute concentrates on the
14 rural architectural development and planning that is representative of Native
15 American reservations.
- 16 F. While the Navajo Nation supports House Bill 39, it also urges the New Mexico
17 legislature to consider the following amendments to House Bill 39:
- 18 a. House Bill 39 makes several appropriations to New Mexico colleges and
19 universities, including tribal colleges and universities. The Navajo Nation
20 requests the words “tribal colleges and universities” be included in the
21 headings or paragraphs in the sections that make appropriations to tribal
22 colleges and universities.
- 23 b. Section 1 of House Bill 39 makes several appropriations to the board of
24 regents of the University of New Mexico. Specifically, an appropriation of
25 two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) is to develop a “graduate
26 studies pathway leading to an endorsement in bilingual education for bilingual
27 teachers in Spanish and English.” The Navajo Nation requests the pathway be
28 expanded to include Indigenous languages and the Navajo language.
- 29 c. Section 2 of House Bill 39 makes additional appropriations to the board of
30 regents of the University of New Mexico related to medical education and

1 health sciences, including behavioral health, for culturally responsive health
2 and wellness. The Navajo Nation requests that a portion of the appropriation
3 be expanded to include funding for law school Juris Doctor programs. This
4 will allow tribes to secure tribal sovereignty and protect tribal nations from
5 legal challenges.

6
7 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 8 A. The Navajo Nation supports the appropriations and intent of House Bill 39, as
9 attached in **Exhibit A**.
- 10 B. The Navajo Nation requests the New Mexico legislature approve amendments to
11 House Bill 39 consistent with paragraph F, above.
- 12 C. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, and the
13 Navajo Nation Speaker to take all steps necessary to advocate for the Navajo Nation's
14 position with respect to House Bill 39.