

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0035-24_

SPONSOR: Amber Kanazbah Crotty

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Supporting the State of New Mexico House Bill 68, Making an Appropriation to the Department of Transportation to Clear Cattle Guards on New Mexican Native American Nation, Tribe and Pueblo Lands

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0035-24

DATE: February 2, 2024

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO HOUSE BILL 68, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CLEAR CATTLE GUARDS ON NEW MEXICAN NATIVE AMERICAN NATION, TRIBE AND PUEBLO LANDS

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, would support the NM House Bill 68, making an appropriation to the NM DOT for clearing of cattle guards on NM Native, Tribal, and Pueblo lands.

Final Authority: Naabik'íyáti' Committee

Vote Requirement: Simple Majority

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committee. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review the proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johna
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 02-07-24
Eligible for Action: 02-08-24

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
2 25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Second Year, 2024
3 INTRODUCED BY

4
5 _____
6 (Sponsor)



7
8 TRACKING NO. 0035-24

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10 AN ACTION
11 RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO HOUSE BILL 68, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION
13 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CLEAR CATTLE
14 GUARDS ON NEW MEXICAN NATIVE AMERICAN NATION, TRIBE AND
15 PUEBLO LANDS

16
17 **WHEREAS:**

- 18 A. The Navajo Nation Council, as the governing body of the Navajo Nation, is entrusted
19 with the responsibility to safeguard the interests, rights, and traditions of the Navajo
20 People. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).
- 21 B. The Navajo Nation Council established the Naabik'iyati' Committee as a Navajo Nation
22 Council standing committee, which is empowered to coordinate all request for
23 information, appearances and testimony related to proposed county, state and federal
24 legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 770 (A), 701 (A)(6).
- 25 C. The 56th Legislature of the State of New Mexico introduced New Mexico House Bill
26 68, which would make a \$5,000,000 appropriation to the Department of
27 Transportation for purposes of clearing out cattle guards on Native, Tribal and Pueblo
28 lands within New Mexico. **Exhibit A.**
- 29 D. Livestock ownership and agriculture are timeless symbols of resourcefulness,
30 prosperity, and social status. These are gifts bestowed by Holy Ones and are central to

1 Dine philosophy of Nizhonigo 'lina (beauty way of life). The adherence to this
2 philosophy, identity and cultural uniqueness is maintained among the Dine people
3 and is recognized as the core foundation of our sovereignty.

4 E. Agriculture and livestock have always been key to the evolution of Navajo society,
5 economy, and in our development as a sovereign Nation.

6 F. Cattle guards act as physical barriers that prevent livestock from wandering onto
7 roads, neighboring properties, or areas where they may cause damage or pose a risk to
8 themselves or others.

9 G. By keeping livestock within designated areas, cattle guards enhance road safety by
10 minimizing the chances of vehicle collisions with wandering animals. This protects
11 both motorists and the livestock themselves.

12 H. Compared to traditional gates or fencing, cattle guards can be a more cost-effective
13 long-term solution. They eliminate the need for constant gate maintenance, reducing
14 labor and material costs over time.

15 I. Cattle guards enable vehicles, such as farm equipment or emergency vehicles, to pass
16 through without the need to stop and open gates, saving time and increasing
17 operational efficiency.

18 J. Cattle guards facilitate the establishment of grazing areas and rotational grazing
19 systems, allowing ranchers to control the movement of livestock across different
20 pastures, promoting optimal forage utilization and preventing overgrazing.

21 K. For the reason stated above, it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to support
22 New Mexico House Bill 68, which would provide cleaning to cattle guards within the
23 New Mexico area of the Navajo Nation, ensuring the safety of travelers and livestock.

24 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

25 A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby supports New Mexico House Bill 68, "Making an
26 Appropriation to the Department of Transportation to Clear Cattle Guards on New
27 Mexico Native American Nation, Tribe and Pueblo Lands."

28 B. The Navajo Nation Council hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation
29 Council, the President of the Navajo Nation, and their designees, to advocate in favor
30 of New Mexico House Bill 68.