

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0092-24\_

SPONSOR: Amber Kanazbah Crotty

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Supporting the United States Senate Bill 465 Titled: "Badges for Native Communities Act"

*Date posted:* April 24, 2024 at 4:55PM

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**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

Tracking No. 0092-24

**DATE:** April 23, 2024

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES SENATE BILL 465 TITLED: "BADGES FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES ACT"**

**PURPOSE:** This resolution, if approved, would support the U.S. Senate Bill 465, titled "Badges for Native Communities Act".

**Final Authority:** Naabik'íyáti' Committee

**Vote Required:** 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 Al Mike III  
Website Posting Time/Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Posting End Date: 4/29/24  
Eligible for Action: 4/30/24

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION  
2 25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—SECOND YEAR, 2024  
3 INTRODUCED BY

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
5  
6 Primary Sponsor



7  
8 TRACKING NO. 0092-24

9  
10 AN ACTION  
11 RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE;  
12 SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES SENATE BILL 465  
13 TITLED: "BADGES FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES ACT"

14  
15 **WHEREAS:**

- 16 A. The Naabik'iyati' Committee, established by the Navajo Nation Council as a standing  
17 committee under 2 N.N.C. §§ 700 (A), 701 (A) (6), is empowered to coordinate and  
18 facilitate communication regarding proposed county, state, and federal legislation  
19 impacting the Navajo Nation.
- 20 B. The Navajo Nation recognizes the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives crisis and the  
21 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons ("MMIP") crisis, that impacts all of Indian  
22 Country.
- 23 C. To address these crises, Tribes need access to federal data and need to coordinate their  
24 efforts with federal authorities to track and identify our missing people. Tribal law  
25 enforcement officers who suffer from emotional distress and burnout need access to  
26 culturally appropriate mental health and wellness resources. *See* Navajo Nation  
27 Washington Office Legislative Analysis on S.B. 465, attached as **Exhibit A**.
- 28 D. The Navajo Nation agrees with Representative Ruben Gallegos from Arizona who  
29 stated: "Fore years, the federal government has failed to provide tribal communities  
30 with the resources needed to adequately ensure public safety and properly support

1 Tribal law enforcement agencies.” U.S. Senate Bill 465 addresses the federal  
2 inefficiencies that hurt law enforcement recruitment and retention at the Bureau of  
3 Indian Affairs, increases the effectiveness of federal missing persons resources, and  
4 gives resources to Tribes and states to combat the crisis of missing and murdered  
5 Indigenous persons. **Exhibit B.**

6 E. The Senate Bill 465 (“S.B. 465”) titled: “Bridging Agency Data Gaps and Ensuring  
7 Safety for Native Communities Act” - a.k.a. the “BADGES Act” - seeks to support  
8 Tribes in responding to the MMIP crisis by requiring federal law enforcement agencies  
9 to report cases of missing or murdered tribal members, addressing inefficiencies in  
10 federal criminal databases, improving tribal access to federal criminal databases,  
11 promoting recruitment and retention at BIA law enforcement agencies, providing  
12 tribes with resources to improve public safety coordination between their governments,  
13 states, and federal agencies, and mitigating federal law enforcement personnel  
14 mishandling and preservation of evidence crucial to securing conviction of violent  
15 offenders. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/465?s=1&r=35>; See  
16 Summary of the BADGES Act attached as **Exhibit C.**

17 F. The Navajo Nation supports granting all Tribes access to the National Missing and  
18 Unidentified Persons System (“NamUS”) so Tribes can enter MMIP information to  
19 assist in efforts to rapidly identify and locate missing relatives.

20 G. The Navajo Nation supports the creation of a Tribal Facilitator to coordinate with  
21 federal law enforcement, assist collection and access to information, thus helping with  
22 the identification and location of missing tribal persons.

23 H. The Navajo Nation acknowledges that reports documenting the limited resources of  
24 Tribal law enforcements agencies and courts, as well as documenting the shortage of  
25 U.S. Department of Justice employees assigned to criminal investigations and  
26 prosecutions in Indian Country, are a positive step forward, provided that such  
27 reporting lead to Congress taking swift action to address the unmet needs and limited  
28 staffing problems.

29 I. The Navajo Nation acknowledges that the demonstration project allowing the BIA to  
30 require background investigations of potential BIA law enforcement candidates, and to

1 enter into agreements with Tribes to access information necessary for those  
2 investigations, could expedite the evaluation process and reduce hiring barriers for  
3 candidates.

4 J. The Navajo Nation recognizes that \$1 million in funding for the creation of a State or  
5 Regional Center is insufficient and therefore requests additional funding so that Tribes  
6 can take full advantage of the opportunities provided by these Centers to document and  
7 track missing persons and other cases of interests.

8 K. The Navajo Nation acknowledges that S.B. 465 provides positive steps towards  
9 resolution of the MMIP Crisis, however more resources, funding, and further action are  
10 needed.

11 L. The Navajo Nation opposes the definition of Indian Tribe as defined in the Indian Self  
12 Determination Education Assistant Act, Section 4, as used in the BADGES Act. Rather,  
13 the Nation urges use of the definition of Indian Tribe in 25 U.S.C. § 5130.

14 M. For the reasons stated above, it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to support  
15 the proposed BADGES Act, to urge that S.B. 465 be amended to use the definition of  
16 Indian Tribe set forth in 25 U.S.C. § 5130, and to call on Congress to do more to address  
17 the ongoing MMIP Crisis.

18  
19 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

20 A. The Navajo Nation urges Congress to pass the “BADGES Act” with an amendment to  
21 replace the definition Indian Tribe with the definition of Indian Tribe set forth in 25  
22 U.S.C. § 5130.

23 B. The Navajo Nation further urges Congress to appropriate additional funding for the  
24 Regional Centers described in the BADGES Act.

25 C. The Navajo Nation further urges Congress to fully fund public safety programs in  
26 Indian Country as identified in the “2023 Tribal Law and Order Act Report to  
27 Congress.”

28 D. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation  
29 Council, the President of the Navajo Nation, and their designees, to advocate for the  
30 adoption of the BADGES Act, with the Indian Tribe definition used in 25 U.S.C. § 5130.