

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
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LEGISLATION NO: _0105-24_

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee; Supporting the United States House Bill 4524 Titled; "Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act"

Date posted: May 10, 2024 at 9:19PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0105-24

DATE: April 26, 2024

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES THE UNITED STATES HOUSE BILL 4524 TITLED: "PARITY FOR TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT"

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, would support the U.S. House Bill 4524, titled "Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement 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 AMK JET
Website Posting Time/Date _____
Posting End Date: 05/15/24
Eligible for Action: 05/16/24

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
2 25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—SECOND YEAR, 2024

3 INTRODUCED BY

4
5 _____
6 Primary Sponsor

7
8 TRACKING NO. 0105-24
9

10 AN ACTION
11 RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE;
12 SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES HOUSE BILL 4524
13 TITLED: "PARITY FOR TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT 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 that their police department, like other Tribal police
21 departments, are facing sever personnel shortages, impacting their ability to effectively
22 provide law enforcement services over an extensive geological area.
- 23 C. House Bill 4524 ("H.R. 4524") titled: "Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act" – if
24 passed will treat certain tribal law enforcement officers as federal law enforcement
25 officers under specified circumstances. **Exhibit A.**
- 26 D. Specifically, the Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act would authorize law
27 enforcement officers of Indian tribes that contract or compact any or all federal law
28 enforcement functions through the Indian Self-Determination and Education
29 Assistance Act to enforce federal law within the tribe's jurisdiction if those officers
30

1 meet certain qualifications. These qualifications include completing training and
2 passing an adjudicated background investigation. **Exhibit B.**

3 E. The Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act would deem a tribal law enforcement
4 officer who is acting under an authorized contract or compact as a federal law
5 enforcement officer for the purposes of certain federal laws, including for injury and
6 death, retirement, and pension benefits. **Exhibit B.**

7 F. The Navajo Nation recognizes the Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act would
8 benefit the Navajo Nation and all of Indian Country by enhancing our ability to recruit
9 and retain Tribal law enforcement officers through increased benefits. **Exhibit C.**

10 G. The Navajo Nation acknowledges that our Navajo people are disproportionately
11 affected by the lack of law enforcement funding and resources available, like all
12 American Indian and Alaska Natives.

13 H. For the reasons stated above, it is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to supports
14 the Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act, H.R. 4524, to enhance our ability to protect
15 and police our lands and keep all Dine safe by increasing parity for Tribal law
16 enforcement.

17
18 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

19 A. The Navajo Nation urges Congress to pass H.R. 4524 - Parity for Tribal Law
20 Enforcement Act.

21 B. The Navajo Nation further urges Congress to appropriate funding so that Tribes may
22 fully take advantage of the amendments in H.R. 4524, without taking funding away
23 from other Tribal programs.

24 C. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, the
25 President of the Navajo Nation, and their designees, to advocate for the adoption of the
26 Parity for Tribal Law Enforcement Act.