

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0125-24_

SPONSOR: Dr. Andy Nez

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Health, Education and Human Services and Resources and Development Committees; Supporting and Authorizing the Issuance of Free Fishing Licenses for Honorable Discharged Navajo Veterans on the Navajo Nation; Amending the Navajo Nation Fishing and Boating Regulations

Date posted: June 11, 2024 at 5:40PM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0125-24

DATE: June 10, 2024

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES; SUPPORTING AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF FREE FISHING LICENSES FOR HONORABLY DISCHARGED NAVAJO VETERANS ON THE NAVAJO NATION; AMENDING THE NAVAJO NATION FISHING AND BOATING REGULATIONS

PURPOSE: The purpose of this proposed resolution is to approve free fishing for honorably discharged Navajo veterans.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Resources and Development Committee

VOTE REQUIREMENT: Simple Majority

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.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD [Signature]
Website Posting Time/Date _____
Posting End Date: 06-16-24
Eligible for Action: 06-17-24

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

INTRODUCED BY

[Signature]
Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0125-24

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND
RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES; SUPPORTING AND
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF FREE FISHING LICENSES FOR
HONORABLY DISCHARGED NAVAJO VETERANS ON THE NAVAJO
NATION; AMENDING THE NAVAJO NATION FISHING AND BOATING
REGULATIONS

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 400(A). Among other powers, the Committee shall review and recommend resolutions relating to social services, health, environmental health, education, veterans and veterans services, employment and labor. 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(6).
- B. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and serves as the oversight committee for the Division of Natural Resources with authority to promulgate rules and regulations governing the use, sale, exchange and development of Navajo Nation lands and/or resources. 2 N.N.C. §§ 500(A), 501(B)(1), 501 (C)(1).

1 C. The Resources and Development Committee has the authority to establish fees and
2 regulations for hunting and fishing activities. 17 N.N.C. § 512.

3
4 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

5 A. The Department of Fish and Wildlife is established within the Division of Natural
6 Resources. RDCO-79-16 at Exhibit K — Plan of Operation Department of Fish and
7 Wildlife Division of Natural Resources at page 1.

8 B. The Department currently operates under the Navajo Nation Fishing and Boating
9 Regulations as approved by RCS-166-91 and attached as **Exhibit A**.

10 C. Fishing permits are required for the taking of fish from Navajo waters. 17 N.N.C § 501
11 and Navajo Nation Fishing and Boating Regulations § 2.02.

12 D. The Navajo Nation Fishing and Boating Regulations contains the following provision:

13 2.02 Permits Requirements

14 A. Any person, Navajo or Non-Navajo twelve (12) years of age
15 and over who angles, or fishes for aquatic wildlife in Navajo
16 waters must have in their possession a proper and valid fishing
17 permit.

18 B. Persons under twelve (12) years of age are not required to have
19 such a permit, but are only entitled to one-half the daily bag and
20 possession limits. Persons under twelve (12) years of age may
21 purchase a proper permit and be entitled to the full daily bag
22 and possession limits.

23 C. Any Navajo Tribal Member sixty (60) years of age and over is
24 entitled to a lifetime fishing permit. This permit will be issued
25 only at the Navajo Fish and Wildlife Office in Window Rock,
26 Arizona.

27 D. A Commercial Waterdog Permit is required to take, possess,
28 purchase, sell, or transport waterdogs for commercial purposes
29 on the Navajo Nation.
30

1 E. Those qualified for a group fishing permit include, but are not
2 limited to schools, youth groups, senior citizens groups, special
3 education groups and other non-profit organizations.
4 Eligibility, fees and dates for group fishing permits will be
5 decided on an individual basis by the Director of the Navajo
6 Fish and Wildlife Department. Group fishing permits can only
7 be received by contacting the Director of the Navajo Fish and
8 Wildlife Department.

9 In lieu of a fee, the group can provide an in-kind service, such
10 as picking up litter at an area lake, before fishing. If the Director
11 approves, the in-kind service will serve as the fee for receiving
12 the group permit.

13
14 E. The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, on behalf of Navajo
15 veterans, requests that honorably discharged Navajo veterans be entitled to lifetime
16 fishing permits at no cost.

17 F. This request is supported by the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife and
18 various Navajo veteran organizations. OPVP requests and supporting documents are
19 attached as **Exhibit B**.

20 G. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to provide lifetime fishing permits to
21 honorably discharged Navajo veterans at no cost.

22
23 **SECTION THREE. APPROVAL**

24 A. The Navajo Nation hereby amends the Navajo Nation Fishing and Boating Regulations,
25 by the addition of a new paragraph C with the following language to § 2.02:

26
27 C. Any Navajo veteran who has been honorably discharged
28 from United States military service shall be entitled to a
29 lifetime fishing permit at no cost upon proof of enrollment
30 with the Navajo Nation and valid proof of honorable

1 discharge. This permit will be issued only at the Navajo
2 Fish and Wildlife Office in Window Rock, Arizona.

3 B. Re-letter all succeeding paragraphs in §2.02, to reflect the additional
4 paragraph.

5
6
7 **SECTION FOUR. DIRECTIVE**

8 A. The Resources and Development Committee directs the Department of Fish and
9 Wildlife to update the Navajo Nation Fishing and Boating Regulations consistent with
10 this resolution no later than thirty (30) days after the effective date of this resolution.
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30