

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0022-25

SPONSOR: Dr. Andy Nez

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Supporting New Mexico Senate Bill 163 Titled "An Act Relating to Public Schools; Permitting Public School Student Who Are Enrolled, or Eligible for Enrollment, in Federally Recognized Indian Nations, Tribes and Pueblos to Wear Tribal Regalia at Graduation Ceremonies or Public School Events."

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0022-25

DATE: February 28, 2025

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO SENATE BILL 163 TITLED "AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; PERMITTING PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED, OR ELIGIBLE FOR ENROLLMENT, IN FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN NATIONS, TRIBES AND PUEBLOS TO WEAR TRIBAL REGALIA AT GRADUATION CEREMONIES OR PUBLIC SCHOOL EVENTS."

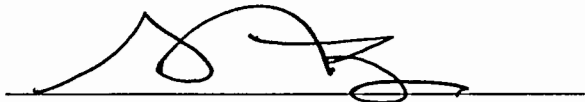
PURPOSE: This proposed resolution will provide the Navajo Nation's support of New Mexico Senate Bill 163.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Naabik'íyáti' Committee
VOTING 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.

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
2 25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Third Year, 2025

3 INTRODUCED BY

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5 _____

6 (Sponsor)

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9 TRACKING NO. 0022-25

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11 AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE;
12 SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO SENATE BILL 163 TITLED “AN ACT
13 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; PERMITTING PUBLIC SCHOOL
14 STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED, OR ELIGIBLE FOR ENROLLMENT, IN
15 FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN NATIONS, TRIBES AND PUEBLOS TO
16 WEAR TRIBAL REGALIA AT GRADUATION CEREMONIES OR PUBLIC
17 SCHOOL EVENTS.”

18
19 WHEREAS:

- 20
21 A. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as Navajo Nation
22 Council standing committee and as such empowered the Naabik'iyáti' Committee to
23 coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to
24 proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C.
25 §§ 700(A), 701(A)(6).
26 B. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the State of
27 New Mexico.
28 C. On January 28, 2025, New Mexico Senators Benny Shendo, Jr., D. Wonda Johnson,
29 Angel M. Charley, Cindy Nava, and Michelle Paulene Abeyta introduced New
30 Mexico Senate Bill 163 (“NM Senate Bill 163”) titled “An Act Relating to Public

1 Schools; Permitting Public School Students Who Are Enrolled, or Eligible for
2 Enrollment, In Federally Recognized Indian Nations, Tribes and Pueblos to Wear
3 Tribal Regalia at Graduation Ceremonies or Public Events” attached as **Exhibit A**.

4 D. NM Senate Bill 163 prohibits local school boards and governing bodies of charter
5 schools from prohibiting a student who is enrolled, or eligible for enrollment, in a
6 federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or pueblo from wearing tribal regalia or
7 objects of cultural significance along with or attached to a cap or gown or wearing
8 tribally significant footwear or other items.

9 E. For many Indigenous students across New Mexico, graduations and school events
10 mark significant milestones in which students and families take the opportunity to
11 wear traditional tribal regalia, feathers, and other adornments, which are sacred
12 markers of achievement, tradition, and connection with ancestors.

13 F. The Navajo Nation supports NM Senate Bill 163 in an effort to protect the freedom of
14 our Diné students and other indigenous relatives in expressing and representing their
15 tribal heritage during times of academic recognition and celebration.

16
17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

18 A. The Navajo Nation supports NM Senate Bill 163 titled “An Act Relating to Public
19 Schools; Permitting Public School Students Who Are Enrolled, or Eligible for
20 Enrollment, In Federally Recognized Indian Nations, Tribes and Pueblos to Wear
21 Tribal Regalia at Graduation Ceremonies or Public Events” attached as **Exhibit A**.

22 B. The Naabik’íyáti’ Committee hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, and the
23 Navajo Nation Speaker to take all steps necessary to advocate for the Navajo Nation’s
24 position with respect to NM Senate Bill 163.