

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0066-25_

SPONSOR: Germaine Simonson

TITLE: An Act Relating to the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, the Law and Order Committee, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code, the Plan of Operation for the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council, from the Executive Branch to the Legislative Branch

Date posted: April 23, 2025 at 4:52PM

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Office of Legislative Services
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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0066-25

DATE: April 10, 2025

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACT RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING TITLE 2 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE, THE PLAN OF OPERATION FOR THE NAVAJO NATION YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL, FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

PURPOSE: The purpose of this proposed resolution is to approve an amended Plan of Operation for the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council that places the program under the Legislative Branch.

Final Authority: Navajo Nation Council

Vote Required: A 2/3 vote is required.

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: 04-28-25
Eligible for Action: 04-29-25

Health Education & Human Services Committee
Thence
Law & Order Committee
Thence
Naabik'iyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
2 25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Third Year, 2025

3 INTRODUCED BY:

4 [Signature]
5 [Signature]

6 (Prime Sponsor)

7
8 TRACKING NO. 0066-25

9
10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES
12 COMMITTEE, THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI'
13 COMMITTEE, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING TITLE 2 OF
14 THE NAVAJO NATION CODE, THE PLAN OF OPERATION FOR THE NAVAJO
15 NATION YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL, FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO
16 THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

17
18 BE IT ENACTED:

19
20 SECTION 1. AUTHORITY

- 21 A. The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the
22 Navajo Nation Council with authority over proposed resolutions on matters involving
23 social services, health, environmental health, education, veterans, employment, and
24 labor. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164(A) and 401(B)(6)(a)
- 25 B. The Law and Order Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council
26 with authority over proposed resolutions that amend, or enact new provisions to, the
27 Navajo Nation Code. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164(A) and 601(B)(14).
- 28 C. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with
29 authority over proposed resolutions that require final action by the Navajo Nation
30 Council. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164(A)(9) and 701(A)(3).

1 D. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. The Navajo
2 Nation Council reviews and approves amendments and enactments to the Navajo Nation
3 Code. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102(A) and 164(A).
4

5 **SECTION 2. FINDINGS**

- 6 A. On April 19, 2017, the Navajo Nation Council by Resolution CAP-26-17 established the
7 Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council within 2 N.N.C. §§ 1160 - 1165. **EXHIBIT 1.**
8 B. Resolution CAP-26-17 placed the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council under the
9 Navajo Nation Executive Branch, with the Office of the President/Vice-President. The
10 Office of the President/Vice President is charged with coordinating its efforts with the
11 Judicial Branch and the Legislative Branch to provide technical assistance and other
12 support to the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council.
13 C. It is recommended that the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council be moved from the
14 Executive Branch to the Legislative Branch for better efficiency.
15 D. The Navajo Nation finds it in the best interest of the Navajo Nation and the Navajo youth
16 that the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council be moved from the Executive Branch to
17 the Legislative Branch.
18

19 **SECTION 3. APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 2 OF THE NAVAJO NATION**
20 **CODE REGARDING THE NAVAJO NATION YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

21 The Navajo Nation hereby amends the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council plan of
22 operation by deleting 2 N.N.C. §§ 1160 - 1165, and approving 2 N.N.C. §§ 890 – 897, as
23 follows:

24 * * * *

25 **NAVAJO NATION CODE**

26 **Title 2. Navajo Nation Government**

27 **Chapter 5. Executive Branch**

28 **Subchapter 1. Office of the President and Vice-President**

29 **~~Article 8. Navajo Nation Advisory Youth Council~~**
30

1 **~~§ 1160. ESTABLISHMENT~~**

2 ~~The Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council is established under the Executive Branch of the~~
3 ~~Navajo Nation Government. The Office of the President and Vice President shall coordinate~~
4 ~~technical assistance and support with the Judicial and Legislative Branches.~~

5
6 **~~§ 1161. PURPOSES~~**

7 ~~The purposes of the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council shall include:~~

8 ~~A.—— Providing policy advice to the President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation,~~
9 ~~the Navajo Nation Council and the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation Government~~
10 ~~regarding youth issues and concerns.~~

11 ~~B.—— Identifying issues facing Navajo Nation Youth, and providing guidance and~~
12 ~~offering solutions to Navajo Nation officials concerning such issues.~~

13 ~~C.—— Recommending amendments to its enabling legislation or Policies and~~
14 ~~Procedures.~~

15
16 **~~§ 1162. PERSONNEL~~**

17 ~~The Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council is established under the Executive Branch of the~~
18 ~~Navajo Nation Government. The Office of the President and Vice President shall coordinate~~
19 ~~technical assistance and support with the Judicial and Legislative Branches.~~

20
21 **~~§ 1163. ORGANIZATION~~**

22 ~~A.—— A Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council shall consist of twelve (12) members.~~
23 ~~There shall be two (2) members appointed from each of the five Agencies. Two (2) members~~
24 ~~shall be appointed at large.~~

25 ~~B.—— The Youth Advisory Council shall be recommended by the Office of Diné Youth~~
26 ~~and appointed by the President, Speaker and Chief Justice.~~

27 ~~C.—— The terms of the membership shall be two years.~~

28 ~~D.—— The Youth Advisory Council shall select from its members a Chair, Vice Chair,~~
29 ~~Secretary and Treasurer.~~

30 ~~E.—— Youth Advisory Council members shall be 14 to 24 years old.~~

1 F. ~~The Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council shall meet on a quarterly basis and~~
2 ~~as necessary. Designated members shall receive meals and travel expense reimbursement~~
3 ~~pursuant to the Navajo Nation laws, policies and procedures.~~

4 G. ~~The Youth Advisory Council shall give a quarterly report to the President and~~
5 ~~Vice President of the Navajo Nation, Navajo Nation Council at the regular Navajo Nation~~
6 ~~Council session, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation.~~

7
8 ~~§1164. LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT~~

9 ~~The Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council shall operate under the oversight of the Health,~~
10 ~~Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.~~

11
12 ~~§1165. AMENDMENTS~~

13 ~~This enabling legislation for the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council may be amended by~~
14 ~~the Navajo Nation Council.~~

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16 * * * *

17 **NAVAJO NATION CODE**
18 **Title 2. Navajo Nation Government**
19 **Chapter 3. Legislative Branch**
20 **Subchapter 11. Boards and Commission**

21 ***

22 **§ 890. Establishment.**

23 The Navajo Nation hereby established the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council (“Youth
24 Advisory Council”) within the Legislative Branch as an entity of the Navajo Nation
25 government.

26
27 **§ 891. Purposes.**

28 The purposes of the Youth Advisory Council shall include:

29 A. providing policy recommendations to appropriate programs and departments
30 within the Legislative, Judicial, and Executive Branches of the Navajo Nation Government,

1 regarding issues and concerns affecting the Navajo youth;

2 B. serving as a forum for the presentation and exchange of ideas and goals for the
3 benefit of the Navajo youth, and offering relevant proposals to Tribal, State, Federal, and
4 International governments and organizations, and to public and private entities;

5 C. receiving reports, and performing advocacy, regarding matters affecting the
6 Navajo youth and their families;

7 D. providing leadership opportunities to the Navajo youth by providing safe and
8 healthy guidance and mentorship;

9 E. promoting Navajo culture, language, and the philosophy of Nitsakakees, Nahat'a,
10 Iná, and Síhasin, through K'é, in harmony with Diné Fundamental Law, inclusive of other
11 philosophies, as appropriate; and

12 F. recommending amendments to its plan of operation and relevant policies and
13 procedures affecting Navajo Youth.

14
15 **§ 892. Staffing and Organization.**

16 A. Staffing. There is established the position of Executive Director of the Youth
17 Advisory Council. The Executive Director shall be under the general direction of the Youth
18 Advisory Council, subject to the Navajo Nation Personnel Policies Manual. The Executive
19 Director shall be authorized to oversee the daily operations of the Youth Advisory Council,
20 coordinate hearings, analyze data, write reports, and submit findings to the Youth Advisory
21 Council, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council. The Executive Director
22 shall supervise the office staff to ensure timely completion of established operational goals.
23 All personnel shall be employed and compensated in accordance with the Navajo Nation
24 Personnel Policies Manual.

25 B. Organization. The Youth Advisory Council shall consist of 12 Members, who all
26 must be enrolled members of the Navajo Nation and must be ages 14 years to 24 years old.
27 Two members shall be appointed from each of the five Navajo Nation Agencies, and two "at
28 large" members shall be appointed by the Speaker.

29 C. Confirmation. Each of the 12 members shall be confirmed by the Naabik'iyati'
30 Committee.

1 D. Terms of service. Membership terms shall be for two years, beginning upon
2 confirmation by the Naabik'iyati' Committee.

3 E. Leadership. Members shall select a leadership model to govern meetings and
4 other activities of the Youth Advisory Council, which model shall incorporate Diné
5 fundamental law and K'é traditional principles.

6 F. Chair and Vice-Chair. A Chair shall be selected to schedule and conduct official
7 meetings. The Chair shall not vote on any resolution before the Youth Advisory Council,
8 unless such vote is needed to break a tie vote. A Vice-Chair shall also be selected to perform
9 the Chair's duties whenever the Chair is unavailable or has a conflict regarding a particular
10 matter before the Youth Advisory Council. When serving in the place of the Chair, the Vice-
11 Chair shall not vote on any resolution before the Youth Advisory Council, unless such vote is
12 needed to break a tie vote.

13 G. Resignation. Any Member may resign at any time by giving a two-week advance
14 written notice to the Youth Advisory Council.

15
16 **§ 893. Meetings and Procedures.**

17 A. Meetings. The Youth Advisory Council shall conduct a Regular Meeting at least
18 once per month. At the written request of any member, at any time the Chair (or the Vice-
19 Chair if the Chair is unavailable) may call and schedule a Special Meeting. As used herein,
20 “meeting” or “all meetings” means both Regular Meetings and Special Meetings.

21 B. Attendance. All members are required to attend all meetings, either in person or
22 by means of remote conferencing, unless excused by the Executive Director. A member's
23 failure to attend three meetings consecutively (including Regular Meetings and Special
24 Meetings), without being excused by the Executive Director, shall result in automatic removal
25 from the Youth Advisory Council.

26 C. Quorum. Seven members of the Youth Advisory Council shall constitute a
27 quorum, and all meetings shall be conducted only when a quorum is present. A quorum must
28 be maintained at all times for the duration of all meetings, and the Chair (or Vice-Chair if the
29 Chair is unavailable) shall stop a meeting if a quorum is lost.

30 D. Voting and official action. Voting shall occur only at meetings with a quorum

1 present. Any official action of the Youth Advisory Council shall be by resolution approved by
2 majority vote of the members in attendance and voting at the time. Proxy votes shall not be
3 allowed at any time for any action of the Youth Advisory Council.

4 E. Meeting minutes. Draft minutes of all meetings shall be prepared within 10
5 calendar days after each meeting and shall be distributed to all members at least 10 working
6 days before the next meeting. For all meetings, the minutes of the previous meeting shall be
7 included on the Agenda for review or discussion at such meeting.

8 F. Public attendance. All meetings shall be open to public attendance, except when
9 the Youth Advisory Council approves a confidential Executive Session during any meeting.
10 All Executive Sessions must be approved by a majority vote of the members in attendance and
11 voting at the time. Meeting notices shall be publicly posted on an appropriate website at least
12 24 hours prior to any meeting.

13 G. Public Participation. Any person wishing to present at any meeting shall notify
14 the Executive Director in writing at least five business days prior to the time scheduled for the
15 start of such meeting. Notification shall include the person's name, address, organization
16 represented, and a brief explanation of the topic to be presented. The time allotted for
17 presentation, including questions and/or further public comments, shall be determined by the
18 Chair (or Vice-Chair if the Chair is unavailable).

19
20 **§ 894. Compensation for Participation.**

21 A. All Youth Advisory Council members are considered volunteers and shall receive
22 no compensation for their participation, or activities related to, the Youth Advisory Council.
23 However, members shall receive dollar-for-dollar reimbursements for their authorized and
24 documented expenses incurred in the performance of their duties for the Youth Advisory
25 Council.

26 B. Reimbursement shall be in accordance with current Navajo Nation travel policies
27 and procedures. Reimbursement claims with sufficient documentation shall be submitted to
28 the Executive Director, and the Office shall be responsible for paying members'
29 reimbursement claims.

1 **§ 895. Duties, Responsibilities, and Goals.**

2 The Youth Advisory Council shall:

3 A. schedule and conduct Regular Meetings once per month, as well as Special
4 Meetings from time-to-time, as appropriate;

5 B. at least once per fiscal year quarter, provide written reports to the Naabik'iyáti'
6 Committee (and verbal reports if so requested), with copies provided to the Speaker and other
7 Navajo Nation programs, as appropriate;

8 C. in all activities and formal actions of the Youth Advisory Council, incorporate
9 K'é (kinship) and other Diné fundamental concepts and practices;

10 D. become knowledgeable and stay informed about matters relating to the Navajo
11 Nation and the Navajo youth;

12 E. maintain open and regular communication with appropriate government
13 programs and private entities, as appropriate, and provide relevant reports to appropriate
14 Navajo Nation Council Standing Committees regarding issues concerning the Navajo youth;

15 F. review proposed or pending legislation affecting the Navajo youth, and advocate
16 for new legislation to benefit the Navajo youth;

17 G. conduct public meetings and plan projects, programs, and/or services that will
18 benefit the Navajo youth; and

19 H. seek out and apply for funding for planned youth projects, programs, or services.

20
21 **§ 896. Legislative Oversight.**

22 The Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council shall have oversight authority over the
23 Youth Advisory Council.

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25 **§ 897. Amendments.**

26 This Plan of Operations may be amended by the Navajo Nation Council upon recommendation
27 of the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council and the Naabik'iyáti' Committee.

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SECTION 4. CODIFICATION

The parts of this Act that amend or adopt new sections of the Navajo Nation Code shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall incorporate such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.

SECTION 5. SAVING CLAUSE

If any provision of this Act is determined invalid by final Order of the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, or by final Order of a District Court of the Navajo Nation without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, the remainder of this Act shall be the law of the Navajo Nation.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

The Navajo Nation Code amendments approved herein shall be effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §221(B) and 2 N.N.C. §1005(C)(10).