

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0095-25_

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Law and Order Committee, Naabik'íyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending 17 N.N.C. §205, Time Limitations

Date posted: May 28, 2025 at 5:53PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0095-25

DATE: February 14, 2025

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING 17 N.N.C. §205, TIME LIMITATIONS

PURPOSE: The purpose of this proposed resolution is to amend the time limits placed on the Navajo Nation Prosecutor's Office to charge a crime.

Final Authority: Navajo Nation Council

Vote Required: 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:
Website Posting Time/Date:
Posting End Date: 06-02-25
Eligible for Action: 06-03-25

Law & Order Committee
Thence
Naabik'iyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Third Year, 2025

INTRODUCED BY


(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0095-25

AN ACT
RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI'
COMMITTEE, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;
AMENDING 17 N.N.C. §205, TIME LIMITATIONS

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is empowered to review and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council on proposed amendments to and enactments to the Navajo Nation Code, pursuant to 12 N.N.C. § 601(B)(14).
- B. All proposed legislation requiring final authority by the Navajo Nation Council shall be assigned to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §§ 164(A)(9) and 700(A).
- C. The Navajo Nation Council must review and approve enactments or amendments of positive law, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §§ 164(A).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS.

- A. In 2017, the Navajo Nation amended the time limitations for prosecution and gave specific statute of limitations on crimes involving financial fraud and abuse. *See* CO-59-17.

- 1 B. While CO-59-17, increased the statute of limitations for crimes involving financial fraud
2 and abuse. The legislation kept the time limitations regarding other crimes to three years.
3 C. The Navajo Nation Prosecutor and Public Defender are interested in changing the time
4 limitations.
5 D. The Navajo Nation finds it in the best interest of the Navajo Nation and the Diné People
6 to amend Title 17 of the Navajo Nation Code, as set forth herein.
7

8 **SECTION THREE. AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 17**

9 The Navajo Nation amends the Navajo Nation Code 17 N.N.C. § 205, as follows:
10 _____
11

12 **NAVAJO NATION CODE ANNOTATED**
13 **TITLE 17. LAW AND ORDER**
14 **CHAPTER 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS**
15 **SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL**
16

17 ***

18 **§ 205. ~~Time Limitations~~ Statute of Limitations**

- 19 (A) Except as otherwise provided in this Title, prosecution for ~~other~~ offenses must be
20 commenced within ~~three~~ _____ years from the date of the act or conduct which constitutes
21 the offense.
22 (B) A prosecution is commenced either when a complaint is filed or when an arrest warrant or
23 other similar process is issued.
24

25 ***
26 _____

26 **SECTION FOUR. CODIFICATION**

27 The provisions of the Act which amend or adopt new sections of the Navajo Nation Code shall
28 be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall
29 incorporate such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.
30

1 **SECTION FIVE. SAVING CLAUSE**

2 Should any provision of this Act be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court or
3 the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court,
4 the remainder of the Act shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.

5
6 **SECTION SIX. EFFECTIVE DATE**

7 The provisions of the amendments to the Domestic Abuse Protection Act are effective in
8 accordance with 2 N.N.C. § 221(B).