

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0168-25_

SPONSOR: Dr. Andy Nez

TITLE: An Action Relating to Law and Order Committee, Health, Education and Human Services Committee, Naabik'íyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending the Navajo Nation Veterans Act at 2 N.N.C. §§ 1032 through 1036; Relating to the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration and Veterans Advisory Council; and Establishing Agency Veterans Organizations, and Chapter Veterans Organizations

Date posted: July 01, 2025 at 8:08PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0168-25

DATE: July 01, 2025

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACT RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS ACT AT 2 N.N.C. §§ 1032 THROUGH 1036; RELATING TO THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL; AND ESTABLISHING AGENCY VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS, AND CHAPTER VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

PURPOSE: This proposed resolution approves amendment to the Veterans Act in the Navajo Nation Code.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Navajo Nation Council

VOTE REQUIREMENT: 2/3 vote of the Navajo Nation Council

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: 7-5-25
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 07-06-25
Eligible for Action: 07-07-25

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

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – THIRD YEAR, 2025

Introduced by:


(Prime Sponsor)

Tracking No. 0168-25

**AN ACT
RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS
ACT AT 2 N.N.C. §§ 1032 THROUGH 1036; RELATING TO THE NAVAJO
NATION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS ADVISORY
COUNCIL; AND ESTABLISHING AGENCY VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS, AND
CHAPTER VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS**

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Law and Order Committee has the power to review and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council on proposed amendments to and enactments in the Navajo Nation Code. 2 N.N.C. § 601(B) (14).
- B. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee has the power to review and recommend resolutions relating to veterans and veteran services. 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(6).
- C. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee has the power to review proposed legislation which requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9).

- 1 D. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §
2 102(A).
3

4 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 5 A. Chapter Veterans Organizations and Agency Veterans Organizations (the
6 “Organizations”) are the foundation of the Navajo Nation’s veterans network. These
7 organizations support Navajo veterans by allowing them to gather and voice their
8 concerns, and to provide recommendations to the Navajo Nation regarding the needs of
9 Navajo veterans within the Navajo Nation.
- 10 B. Including the Organizations in the Navajo Nation Code provides the Organizations with
11 immediate recognition by other Navajo Nation entities and elevates their advocacy
12 efforts for veterans, surviving spouses, and Gold Star mothers across the Navajo Nation.
- 13 C. Resolution CJA-3-16 established the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration under the
14 Office of the President and Vice President to allow for more efficient outreach, as well
15 as effective delivery of services and benefits to veterans.
- 16 D. Resolution CJA-3-16 also established a Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council to
17 recognize veterans and ensure veteran participation in policy and data system
18 development.
- 19 E. The Northern Navajo Agency Veterans Organization has provided a resolution, attached
20 as **Exhibit A**, in support of these amendments to the Navajo Veterans Act.
- 21 F. The Eastern Navajo Agency Veterans Organization has provided a resolution, attached
22 as **Exhibit B**, in support of these amendments to the Navajo Veterans Act.
- 23 G. The Western Navajo Agency Veterans Organization has provided a resolution, attached
24 as **Exhibit C**, in support of these amendments to the Navajo Veterans Act.
- 25 H. The Central Navajo Agency Veterans Organization has provided a resolution, attached
26 as **Exhibit D**, in support of these amendments to the Navajo Veterans Act.
- 27 I. The Veterans Advisory Council has provided a resolution, attached as **Exhibit E**, in
28 support of these amendments.
- 29 J. The Director of the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration has provided a support
30 letter, attached at **Exhibit F**, in support of these amendments.

- 1 K. It is essential to recognize and honor Navajo veterans for their remarkable military
2 service and sacrifice.
- 3 L. Navajo veterans continue to work tirelessly at local levels to provide benefits and
4 services to Navajo veterans.
- 5 M. Navajo veterans deserve to have direct involvement in policy-making decisions
6 regarding veteran's services and benefits.
- 7 N. Despite numerous efforts, there remains an absence of an effective mechanism through
8 which the needs of Navajo veterans can be captured, clearly organized, and properly
9 represented and advocated for the needs of the Navajo veteran population.

10

11 **SECTION THREE. AMENDMENTS TO NAVAJO NATION VETERANS ACT AT 2**
12 **N.N.C. §§ 1032 THROUGH 1036**

13 The Navajo Nation hereby amends the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council. 2
14 N.N.C. 1032, 1034, and 1035, as follows:

15 _____

16

17 **TITLE 2. NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT**

18 **CHAPTER 5. EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

19 **SUBCHAPTER 1. Generally**

20 **Article 3. Navajo Nation Veterans Administration**

21 * * *

22 **§ 1032. Responsibility and Authority**

23 * * *

24 B. In carrying out its responsibilities the Administration, through the Executive
25 Director, is authorized to:

26 * * *

27 7. ~~Provide administrative support and technical assistance to the Navajo~~
28 ~~Nation Veterans Advisory Council. Provide written reports to the Navajo Nation~~
29 Veterans Advisory Council. These written reports will include demographic data,
30 justifications, and factual determinations to support actions taken by the Navajo Nation

1 Veterans Administration. Additionally, written reports are to include any
2 recommendations made by the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration for policy
3 changes before such changes may be formally adopted and enacted.
4

5 * * *

6 **Article 4 Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council**

7 * * *

8 **§ 1033. Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council Establishment**

9 A. The Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council (Veterans Advisory Council) is
10 established under the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation within the Office of the
11 President and Vice President. The Office of the President and Vice President shall provide
12 administrative support and technical assistance to the Veterans Advisory Council.

13 B. The purpose and authority of the Veterans Advisory Council is to provide policy
14 advice and recommendations to the President of the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation
15 Veterans Administration regarding veterans issues and concerns, as well as to provide reports
16 to legislative oversight on issues that Navajo veterans are currently experiencing.

17 C. The Veterans Advisory Council shall be required to submit written quarterly
18 reports to the Navajo Nation Council that includes a summary of all actions conducted by the
19 Veterans Advisory Council of recommendations made to the Navajo Nation Veterans
20 Administration Executive Director to address veterans issues and concerns, and activities of
21 the agency and member chapter veterans organizations across the Navajo Nation.

22 D. The Veterans Advisory Council shall have a plan of operation that is approved
23 by legislative oversight, which shall include the selection criteria for appointing members, an
24 outline of the duties and responsibilities of its officers, an enumeration of the responsibilities
25 of its members, and the objectives of the Veterans Advisory Council to assist in providing
26 representation of the Navajo veterans needs on the Navajo Nation.

27 E. The Veterans Advisory Council shall internally adopt by-laws to govern the
28 conduct of its members, and if necessary, their removal, and the rules used for the conduct of
29 its meetings.

30 F. The by-laws and the plan of operation of the Veterans Advisory Council shall

1 be made available to any veteran requesting a copy, and shall be available digitally on the
2 Navajo Nation Veterans Administration website.

3 C.G. Membership, selection, terms of office:

4 1. A Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council is established consisting of
5 ~~eleven (11)~~ 10 members.

6 2. The Veterans Advisory Council shall consist of ~~the ten (10) Agency~~
7 ~~Veteran Commanders, one (1) female and one (1) male selected by each Agency, as the~~
8 ~~designated voting members with the Administration Executive Director acting as a non-~~
9 ~~voting member.~~ 2 representatives from each agency veterans organization, 1 male and
10 1 female.

11 a) The representatives may not be agency veterans organization
12 officers but shall be selected from the population of veterans
13 within the respective agency. Representatives shall be registered
14 at a chapter within the respective agency as well as members of a
15 chapter veterans organization within the respective agency.

16 b) Each representative must be nominated by an agency resolution,
17 and such resolution must outline the qualifications and highlights
18 for selected individuals to fill the position.

19 c) Representatives must provide valid copies of their DD214s
20 documenting their honorable service, and completion of a full
21 term service for verification and confirmation. A full term of
22 service shall be defined as not being less than 23 months of
23 honorable service.

24 d) Representatives failing to perform their responsibilities may be
25 removed from their position by the respective veteran agency
26 organization, by 2/3 vote of the members of the Advisory
27 Council.

28 3. The Veterans Advisory Council shall select from its members a Chair, a
29 Vice Chair, and a Secretary.

30 a. Officers shall be elected at the beginning of each fiscal year, and

1 the term of service shall be 2 4 years.

2 b. Representatives to the Veterans Advisory Council shall serve a
3 term of 4 years, and may be nominated to serve a second term for a
4 maximum of 4 years.

5 4. Meeting quorum shall be defined as at least 6 members present with at
6 least one representative from each of the five agencies. No formal actions shall be taken
7 without all agencies being properly represented.

8 ~~4. Designated members shall be veterans selected and/or removed by the~~
9 ~~respective Chapter Veterans Organizations.~~

10 ~~5. The Council shall meet on a quarterly basis and as necessary. Voting~~
11 ~~members shall receive meeting stipends and travel expense reimbursement pursuant~~
12 ~~Navajo Nation laws, policies and procedures and budget.~~

13 H. Reports

14 1. The agency representatives of the Veterans Advisory Council shall
15 provide quarterly written reports to the full membership of the Veterans Advisory
16 Council on the actions taken by their respective agency to assist veterans, and the issues
17 veterans within their respective agency are experiencing, as well as recommendations
18 and proposed resolutions to address those issues.

19 2. Veterans Advisory Council representatives shall provide written reports
20 and in person summaries to the respective agency at the first meeting after quarterly
21 NNVA meetings to provide updates to the agency for dissemination to the veterans to
22 chapter veterans organizations.

23 3. The Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Executive Director shall be
24 required to attend Veterans Advisory Council meetings and shall provide a quarterly
25 written report and an in person summary on the operational effectiveness of Navajo
26 Nation Veterans Administration programs, drafts of policy revisions to address program
27 shortfalls in meeting, veterans needs, and the availability of state and federal veterans
28 programs.

29 4. All written reports shall be in accordance with 2 N.N.C. § 1032(B)(7).

30 I. Stipends.

1 1. The Veterans Advisory Council shall meet at a minimum on a quarterly
2 basis and may meet as necessary.

3 2. Voting members shall receive meeting stipends and travel expense
4 reimbursement pursuant to Navajo Nation laws, policies and procedures and available
5 funding within the Office of the President and Vice President budget.

6 3. Eligibility for meeting stipends must be defined in the plan of operation
7 approved by legislative oversight, but shall include at a minimum attendance for the
8 entirety of scheduled meetings.

9
10 **§ 1034. Navajo Nation Agency Veterans Organization and Chapter Veterans**
11 **Organization Establishment**

12 A. Agency Veterans Organizations (“AVOs”) and Chapter Veterans Organizations
13 (“CVOs”) are hereby established.

14 B. The purpose of agency veterans organizations and chapter veterans
15 organizations shall be to provide a mechanism for Navajo veterans to effectively communicate
16 their unmet needs as veterans living on the Navajo Nation, as well as recommendations for
17 the Navajo Nation government and the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration) to meet those
18 needs and to assist their veterans by effectively and efficiently passing information to Navajo
19 veterans as to the availability of potential resources.

20 C. There shall be 5 AVOs with one recognized per agency of the Navajo Nation,
21 with Plans of Operation that shall be submitted and approved by legislative oversight.

22 D. There shall be 110 CVOs with only one recognized per chapter of the Navajo
23 Nation. Only organizations from each chapter calling themselves “Chapter Veterans
24 Organization” shall be recognized as a Navajo Nation approved CVO.

25 E. Membership and Officers.

26 1. The membership of each AVO shall consist of CVOs based on the
27 chapters within each agency as recognized by the Agency Councils.

28 a. Each CVO shall have a plan of operation approved by the
29 respective chapter veterans organization membership at a regularly scheduled
30

1 chapter veterans organization meeting, consisting of the member veterans
2 residing within the chapter.

3 b. Approved plans of operation shall be on file with the chapter, the
4 agency veterans organization, and the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration,
5 and shall be available to any veteran requesting to review or receive a copy.
6 Digital copies shall be posted on the website for online viewing.

7 2. The officers of the AVO shall be selected by the member CVOs from the
8 veteran population of the respective agency.

9 a. Each AVO shall have at a minimum a Commander, a Vice
10 Commander, and a Secretary.

11 b. AVO Officers shall be elected by popular vote from the veteran
12 population of the agency and may not be an officer of a CVO.

13 c. CVOs shall be formally represented at all AVO meetings by
14 either the Commander or Vice Commander of the member CVOs.

15 d. Each CVO shall only have one vote on any issue that comes
16 before the body, to include election of officers.

17 e. Officers must possess an honorable discharge, and must have
18 completed a full term of service of not less than 23 months.

19 3. The officers of the CVO shall be selected by the member veterans from
20 the veteran population of the respective chapter.

21 a. Each CVO shall have at a minimum a Commander, a Vice
22 Commander, and a Secretary. Only the Commander and Vice Commander
23 position are required to be filled by veterans.

24 b. Officers must possess an honorable discharge, and must have
25 completed a full term of service of not less than 23 months.

26 4. Officers of the AVO and CVOs shall not be selected based solely on
27 gender. However, in accordance with Navajo Nation law no veteran shall be
28 discriminated, in accordance with the Navajo Nation Bill of Rights, 1 N.N.C. §§
29 1-9.

30 5. All CVO meetings shall be held on scheduled dates according to their

1 respective plans of operation, and shall hold a minimum of six meetings per fiscal year.

2 F. Reports.

3 1. The officers of the AVO shall provide written reports and verbal
4 summary of the activities undertaken by the AVO during the previous quarter.

5 2. Veterans Advisory Council members shall provide written reports and in
6 person summaries on the actions and activities of the Veterans Advisory Council , and
7 recommendations made to the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration, Executive
8 Director, as well as any information passed to the Veterans Advisory Council by the
9 Executive Director.

10 3. AVOs shall provide a quarterly written report to legislative oversight.

11
12 **§ ~~1034~~1035. Oversight**

13 The Navajo Nation authorizes the establishment of the Navajo Nation Veterans
14 Administration, ~~and the Veterans Advisory Council, the Navajo Agency Veterans~~
15 Organizations, and the Navajo Chapter Veterans Organizations. Legislative oversight shall be
16 provided by the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation
17 Council

18
19 **§ 1036 Amendments**

20 This Article may be amended by 2/3 vote of the Navajo Nation Council upon recommendation
21 from the Veterans Advisory Council.

22 * * *

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25 **SECTION FOUR. DIRECTIVES**

26 The 5 AVOs shall submit their plans of operation to the oversight committee within 180
27 days from the date of approval of this resolution.

28
29 **SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE**

1 The Navajo Nation Code amendment enacted herein shall be effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C.
2 § 221(B).
3

4 **SECTION SIX. CODIFICATION**

5 The provisions of this Act which amend or adopt new sections of the Navajo Nation Code
6 shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel
7 shall incorporate such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation
8 Code.
9

10 **SECTION SEVEN. SAVING CLAUSE**

11 Should any provision(s) of this Act be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme
12 Court or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation
13 Supreme Court, the remainder of the Act shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.
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