

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
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LEGISLATION NO: _0179-25_

SPONSOR: Shaandiin Parrish

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Budget and Finance Committee; Adopting Investigatory Hearing Rules

Date posted: July 23, 2025 at 8:58PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0179-25

DATE: July 23, 2025

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE; ADOPTING INVESTIGATORY HEARING RULES

PURPOSE: The purpose of this proposed resolution is to adopt investigatory hearing rules for the Budget and Finance Committee for hearings to determine compliance with Navajo Nation law concerning Navajo Nation Contracts for housing and related matters.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Budget and Finance 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.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 07-28-25
Eligible for Action: 07-29-25

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

INTRODUCED BY:


(Prime Sponsor)

Tracking No. 0179-25

AN ACTION
RELATING TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE; ADOPTING
INVESTIGATORY HEARING RULES

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Budget and Finance Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the responsibility to protect the interests of the Navajo people through the prudent management of the financial reserves of the Navajo Nation and the use of funds available for expenditure by the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 300 (C)(4).
- B. The Budget and Finance Committee has the responsibility to exercise oversight authority over the budget, finance, investment, contracting, accounting, and audit activities of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 300 (C).
- C. The Budget and Finance Committee has been delegated the enumerated power, among other powers, to:
1. Review and recommend to the Navajo Nation Council the budgeting, appropriation, investment and management of all funds. 2 N.N.C. § 301 (B)(2);

2. Review the use of Navajo Nation funds received from all sources. 2 N.N.C. § 301 (B)(3);
3. Coordinate and review all fiscal, financial and investment activities of the Navajo Nation and its enterprises, as well as other agencies, federal, state, regional and private, expending or seeking to expend funds within the Navajo Nation or for the benefit of the Navajo People. 2 N.N.C. § 301 (B)(5); and
4. Require reports from and to monitor the financial performance of all offices, divisions, departments, enterprises, authorities, committees, boards, commissions, or entities having oversight or control over fiscal matters or financial obligations to the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 301 (B)(9).

D. Standing Committees of the Navajo Nation Council “shall have the power to subpoena and acquire from any executive department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office, independent establishment or instrumentality, information, suggestions, estimates, and statistics necessary for execution of the purposes and authorities [of the Committee]. Each such department, bureau, agency, board, commission, office, establishment or instrumentality is authorized and directed to furnish to the extent permitted by law such information, suggestions, estimates and statistics directly to the committee. . . upon request by the Chairperson.” 2 N.N.C. § 185 (B).

E. Standing Committees “may, for the purpose of carrying out [committee] purposes and authorities, hold such hearings and shall have the power to subpoena the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of books, records, memoranda, papers and documents as deemed advisable.” 2 N.N.C. § 185 (C).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

A. Standing Committees, including the Budget and Finance Committee, have received information, both oral and written, from Navajo Nation officials, employees, and community members suggesting that the Navajo Nation’s contracts, including procurement, contract modifications, deliverables, invoicing, payments, etc., with Zenni Homes and Indigenous Design Studio + Architects do not comply with Navajo

1 Nation laws, regulations, rules, and policies.

2 B. The Budget and Finance Committee found that the information received about Zenni
3 Homes and Indigenous Design Studio + Architects to be credible and deserving of
4 further investigation in the form of an Investigatory Hearing.

5 C. On July 18, 2025, the Budget and Finance Committee adopted Legislation No. 0174-
6 25 authorizing an Investigatory Hearing for the purpose of determining whether
7 contracts, including procurement, subcontracts, deliverables, payments, etc., for
8 housing projects entered into by the Navajo Nation with Zenni Homes, Indigenous
9 Design Studio + Architects, and other vendors between January 1, 2021, and the
10 present complied with Navajo Nation laws, regulations, rules, and policies.

11 D. Legislation No. 0174-25 requires the Budget and Finance Committee to adopt
12 Hearing Rules at least five (5) days prior to the start of the Investigative Hearing.
13 The purpose of the Hearing Rules is to ensure that the Investigatory Hearing is a full,
14 fair, and transparent process.

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16 **SECTION THREE. APPROVAL**

17 The Budget and Finance Committee hereby approves and adopts the Investigative Hearing
18 Rules attached as **Exhibit A**.

19
20 **SECTION FOUR. AMENDMENTS**

21 These Investigatory Hearing Rules may be amended by resolution of the Budget and Finance
22 Committee.