

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0182-25

SPONSOR: Rickie Nez

**TITLE: An Action Relating to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation Council;  
Removing Heather Clah as Attorney General of the Navajo Nation**

***Date posted:*** August 06, 2025 at 1:51 PM

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## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0182-25

**DATE:** August 4, 2025

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACTION RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; REMOVING HEATHER CLAH AS ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE NAVAJO NATION

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this proposed resolution is to remove Heather L. Clah, Esq. as the Navajo Nation Attorney General.

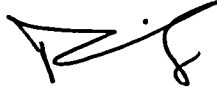
**FINAL AUTHORITY:** Navajo Nation Council

**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.

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Third Year, 2025

Introduced by:



Primary Sponsor

Tracking No. 0182-25

AN ACTION  
RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;  
REMOVING HEATHER CLAH  
AS ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE NAVAJO NATION

BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A). As such, the Navajo Nation Council may consider proposed legislation regarding an emergency matter pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(16).
- B. “[M]atters constituting an emergency shall be limited to the cessation of law enforcement services, and disaster relief services, fire protection services or other direct services required as an entitlement under Navajo Nation or Federal law, or which directly threaten the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation. Such an emergency matter must arise due to the pressing public need for such resolution(s) and must be a matter requiring final action by the Council.” 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(16).
- C. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1962(B), the Navajo Nation Attorney General serves at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council and can be removed from her position with or without cause by action of the Navajo Nation Council.

1 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

2 A. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1964(A), “[t]he Attorney General is the Chief Legal Officer of  
3 the Navajo Nation and, unless otherwise provided by Navajo Nation law, shall have  
4 charge of the Department of Justice and of all legal matters in which the Navajo Nation  
5 government has an interest.”

6 B. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1964(B), “[t]he Attorney General shall “render legal services to  
7 the Navajo Nation government, including its Chapters, branches, and entities, subject to  
8 available resources, as may be required”.

9 C. “The Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General shall be licensed attorneys. The  
10 Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General shall be appointed by the Navajo Nation  
11 Council, upon the recommendation of the President, to serve at a negotiated salary. The  
12 appointment shall be effective upon the approval of the Navajo Nation Council, for a  
13 term concurrent with the term of the President. The Attorney General and Deputy  
14 Attorney General shall serve at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council. All other  
15 attorneys shall serve at a negotiated salary and at the pleasure of the Attorney General.”  
16 2 N.N.C. § 1962(B).

17 D. This legislation is put forth as an emergency measure given the Attorney General’s  
18 authorities to provide legal advice to Navajo Nation entities providing direct services to  
19 the Navajo people.  
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21 **SECTION THREE. REMOVAL OF HEATHER CLAH AS ATTORNEY GENERAL OF**  
22 **THE NAVAJO NATION**

23 As of the Effective Date of this Action, Heather Clah shall be removed as the Attorney General  
24 of the Navajo Nation.  
25

26 **SECTION FOUR. RECOGNIZING VACANCIES AND APPROVAL PROCESS**

27 The Navajo Nation Council hereby recognizes that there is not currently a confirmed Deputy  
28 Attorney General to act in the place of the removed Attorney General. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §  
29 1962(B), an appointment of an Attorney General and a Deputy Attorney General recommended  
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1 by the Navajo Nation President becomes effective upon the approval of the Navajo Nation  
2 Council.

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4 **SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE**

5 This Action shall become effective in accordance with 2 N.N.C. §§ 221(C), 1962(B).  
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