

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0201-25

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee and Navajo Nation Council; Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution CJY-24-25 (An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, Law and Order, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending 15 N.N.C. §§ 303, 305, and 308, The Plan of Operation of the Navajo Nation Labor Commission)

Date posted: August 22, 2025 at 7:11 PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0201-25

DATE: August 22, 2025

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; OVERRIDING THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT'S VETO OF NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION CJY-24-25 (AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND ORDER, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING 15 N.N.C. §§ 303, 305, AND 308, THE PLAN OF OPERATION OF THE NAVAJO NATION LABOR COMMISSION)

PURPOSE: This resolution will override the Navajo Nation's President veto of Resolution CJY-24-25.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Navajo Nation Council

VOTE REQUIRED: 2/3 vote of the membership of the Navajo Nation Council

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: AM Mike Tot
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 08/27/25
Eligible for Action: 08/28/25

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. 0201-25

AN ACTION

RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND NAVAJO NATION
COUNCIL; OVERRIDING THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT'S VETO OF
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION CJY-24-25 (AN ACT RELATING
TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND ORDER,
AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;
AMENDING 15 N.N.C. §§ 303, 305, AND 308, THE PLAN OF OPERATION OF
THE NAVAJO NATION LABOR COMMISSION)

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation and enacts the statutory laws of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102 and 164 (A).
- B. Resolutions enacting new law, or amending existing laws, are subject to veto by the President of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(10) and (11).
- C. The Navajo Nation Council has the authority to override a resolution vetoed by the Navajo Nation President through introduction of "veto legislation" requiring a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(11).

1 D. Veto legislation shall be submitted to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee before consideration
2 by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(17).
3

4 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS.**

5 A. Council Resolution CJY-24-25 was passed by the Navajo Nation Council and certified
6 on July 22, 2025. The resolution, attached as **EXHIBIT A**, is titled, "AN ACT
7 RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND
8 ORDER, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION
9 COUNCIL; AMENDING 15 N.N.C. §§ 303, 305 AND 308, THE PLAN OF
10 OPERATION OF THE NAVAJO NATION LABOR COMMISSION[.]"

11 B. The Navajo Nation President vetoed Resolution CJY-24-25 on August 11, 2025, and
12 provided a memorandum, attached as **EXHIBIT B**, explaining his veto decision.

13 C. The Navajo Nation Council disagrees with the President's reasons for his veto decision.

14 D. Contrary to what is stated in the President's veto memorandum, passage of Resolution
15 CJY-24-25, it is necessary to amend the qualifications for Commissioners because the
16 2016 qualifications for Commissioners are unworkable. Since 2016, only two attorneys
17 have been appointed and confirmed, and they resigned after a few months. The work of
18 the Commission is demanding: evidentiary hearings can last for 8 hours and may take
19 two days or more; Commissioners must know the Navajo Preference in Employment
20 Act, human resources, employment practices and law, and applicable Navajo Nation
21 Supreme Court opinions/memorandum decisions/orders, Commissioners must rule on
22 motions and procedural matters; receive, rule on, exclude, and limit evidence, lines of
23 questioning and testimony; determine relevancy, materiality, and repetitious nature of
24 evidence; examine witnesses; issue findings of fact and conclusions of law; and impose
25 damages, sanctions, fines and other remedies. They are called upon to decide matters of
26 federal Indian law, Navajo Nation caselaw, Navajo due process and *k'e, Diné bi*
27 *beenahaz'aani*, traditional law, customary law, and natural law. Various *pro se* parties,
28 tribal court advocates, attorneys, and law firms litigate before the Commission. The
29 stipend of \$250.00 per hearing day is insufficient to attract and retain new
30

Commissioners; specifically tribal court advocates, and to adequately compensate Commissioners.

E. In addition, Resolution CJY-24-25 provides for the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council to appoint and confirm a majority of Commissioners because the Office of the President has not appointed a single Commissioner since 2019, almost 6 years ago.

F. The Navajo Nation Council believes in the need for Resolution CJY-24-25 for the Navajo Nation Labor Commission to perform its purposes and operate as it was intended.

SECTION THREE. OVERRIDING VETO

The Navajo Nation Council hereby overrides the Navajo Nation President's veto of Resolution CJY-24-25, attached as **EXHIBIT A**.

SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of this veto override shall be as provided for in 2 N.N.C. § 221 (A) and (B).