



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Naabik'íyáti' Committee approves amendment to Title 2, codifying virtual attendance for standing committee meetings and Council sessions



Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty sponsored Legislation 0227-25 to establish virtual attendance for Council Delegates during standing committee meetings and Navajo Nation Council Sessions.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Thursday, the Naabik'íyáti' Committee unanimously approved Legislation No. 0227-25, a proposed amendment to Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code to formally establish virtual attendance for Council Delegates during standing committee meetings and Navajo Nation Council sessions.

“While President Buu Nygren’s unlawful line-item vetoes have eliminated a major portion of the Council’s operating budget, it is necessary that we amend our laws to ensure lawmakers can continue to legislate effectively,” said Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, who sponsored the legislation. “This legislation ensures that the Council is able to carry on the People’s initiatives.”

The proposed measure codifies virtual attendance to sustain the operations of the Legislative Branch while it addresses significant impacts from the President’s vetoes to its operating budget. According to Delegate Crotty, the change allows the Council to “continue the necessary and important work of the Nation.”

Law and Order Committee Chair Eugenia Charles-Newton emphasized that the measure represents a necessary step to address the Legislative Branch’s reduced funding.

"We are operating with limited funds and must carefully decide how those resources are used. Our employees need to be supported," said Charles-Newton. "This is not an ideal situation, but we must ensure that the limited funds we have are distributed wisely so that our staff remain employed and know that we continue to work on their behalf."

Initially implemented in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual attendance enabled Council Delegates to maintain legislative functions through telecommunication platforms such as teleconferencing and video conferencing.

"We are in unprecedented times, and we must have the flexibility to work within the realm of the tools available to us," added Crotty.

The Naabik'íyáti' Committee approved Legislation No. 0227-25 by consent agenda with a vote of 13 in favor and none opposed. The legislation now advances to the full Navajo Nation Council for consideration during the 2025 Fall Council Session, beginning Monday, Oct. 20.

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