

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0022-26

SPONSOR: Crystalyne Curley

**TITLE: An Action Relating to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation Council; Requesting the United States Department of Homeland Security and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement to Recognize Navajo Nation Issued Tribal Identification; Requesting Specialized Training of Tribal Identification Recognition and Native American Political Status for U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officers; and Directing the Navajo Nation Division of Human Resources and the Navajo Office of Vital Records and Identification to Increase Direct Vital Records Services for all Navajo Citizens Residing on the Navajo Nation and in Urban Areas**

***Date posted: January 26, 2026 at 10:51 AM***

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## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0022-26

**DATE:** January 26, 2026

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACTION RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT TO RECOGNIZE NAVAJO NATION ISSUED TRIBAL IDENTIFICATION; REQUESTING SPECIALIZED TRAINING OF TRIBAL IDENTIFICATION RECOGNITION AND NATIVE AMERICAN POLITICAL STATUS FOR U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS; AND DIRECTING THE NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE OFFICE OF VITAL RECORDS TO INCREASE DIRECT VITAL RECORDS SERVICES FOR ALL NAVAJO CITIZENS RESIDING ON THE NAVAJO NATION AND IN URBAN AREAS

**PURPOSE:** This resolution, if approved, would request Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officers to both be training to recognize tribal identification and the political status of tribal members, as well as recognizing tribal identification. Lastly for the Navajo Nation Departments of Human Resources and Office of Vital Records to increase services to all Navajo citizens residing on the Nation and in urban areas.

**FINAL AUTHORITY:** Navajo Nation Council

**VOTE REQUIRED:** 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.**

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
2 25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Fourth Year, 2026

3 Introduced by:

4   
5

6 (Prime Sponsor)

7 Tracking No. 0022-26

8  
9 AN ACTION

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11 RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;  
12 REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
13 AND UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT TO  
14 RECOGNIZE NAVAJO NATION ISSUED TRIBAL IDENTIFICATION;  
15 REQUESTING SPECIALIZED TRAINING OF TRIBAL IDENTIFICATION  
16 RECOGNITION AND NATIVE AMERICAN POLITICAL STATUS FOR U.S.  
17 IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS; AND DIRECTING  
18 THE NAVAJO NATION DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE NAVAJO  
19 OFFICE OF VITAL RECORDS AND IDENTIFICATION TO INCREASE DIRECT  
20 VITAL RECORDS SERVICES FOR ALL NAVAJO CITIZENS RESIDING ON THE  
21 NAVAJO NATION AND IN URBAN AREAS

22  
23 BE IT ENACTED:

24  
25 WHEREAS:

26 A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation, and as such  
27 may consider proposed legislation regarding an emergency matter. 2 N. N. C. §§ 102  
28 (A) and 164 (A)(16).

29 B. "[M]atters constituting an emergency shall be limited to the cessation of law  
30 enforcement services, and disaster relief services, fire protection services or other direct

1 services required as an entitlement under Navajo Nation or Federal law, or which  
2 directly threaten the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation. Such an emergency matter must  
3 arise due to the pressing public need for such resolution(s) and must be a matter  
4 requiring final action by the Council." 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A) (16).The Navajo Nation is a  
5 sovereign tribal nation with a government-to-government relationship with the United  
6 States, as recognized under the Navajo Treaty of 1868. 15 Stat. 667.

7 C. Navajo Nation citizens possess political status as citizens of the United States and dual  
8 citizenship under federal law.

9 D. Tribal identification documents, including Navajo Nation tribal photo identification  
10 cards and Certificates of Indian Blood ("CIBs"), are official Navajo Nation  
11 government-issued documents that verify Navajo citizenship.

12 E. Reports of increased U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") operations  
13 have raised concerns of the Navajo Nation Council, specifically the potential wrongful  
14 questioning, detention, or treatment of Native American/Alaska Native tribal members,  
15 including Navajo citizens, particularly in urban areas.

16 F. The failure to legally recognize tribal identification as well as the lack of training and  
17 awareness among federal law enforcement officers creates unnecessary risk and  
18 confusion for Navajo citizens who are lawfully present within the United States.

19 G. The Navajo Nation Council has a responsibility to protect the rights, safety, and well-  
20 being of Navajo citizens wherever they reside, including those living off the Navajo  
21 Nation.

22 H. The Navajo Office of Vital Records and Identification ("NOVRI") is responsible for  
23 issuing and maintaining official Navajo Nation vital records and tribal identification.

24 I. Outreach and access to vital records services in urban areas are essential to ensuring  
25 Navajo citizens can obtain proper identification and documentation.

26 J. Speaker Crystalyne Curley issued a memorandum dated January 22, 2026, attached as  
27 **Exhibit A**, calling on the Office of the President and Vice President to fulfill its  
28 responsibility to provide outreach and direct services related to vital records to all  
29 Navajo citizens, including those living in urban areas.

1       K. On January 9, 2025, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee adopted Resolution NABIJA-03-25,  
2       attached as **Exhibit B**, approving a contract between the Navajo Nation and the U.S.  
3       Department of the Interior pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 5301 *et seq.*. (P.L. 93-638, as  
4       amended) for NOVRI under the Navajo Nation Division of Human Resources,  
5       beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

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7       **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

8       A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby establishes the Navajo Nation's official position  
9       requesting the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, including ICE and Customs and  
10      Border Protection ("CBP"), to formally recognize Navajo Nation tribal photo  
11      identification cards and CIBs as valid government-issued identification verifying tribal  
12      citizenship.

13      B. The Navajo Nation Council hereby requests that the U.S. Department of Homeland  
14      Security, develop and implement mandatory training for ICE officers and other relevant  
15      personnel to ensure officers are informed, knowledgeable, and competent in  
16      recognizing tribal identification documents and understanding the political status of  
17      American Indians/Alaska Natives, including Navajo citizens.

18      C. The Navajo Nation Council hereby calls upon the U.S. Department of Homeland  
19      Security, to engage in government-to-government consultation with the Navajo Nation  
20      regarding policies, procedures, and enforcement actions that may affect Navajo  
21      citizens.

22      D. The Navajo Nation Council hereby directs the Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records  
23      and Identification to coordinate with relevant Executive Branch programs and  
24      departments, the Navajo Nation Office of Human Rights, and the Office of the Speaker  
25      to plan and conduct outreach events in urban areas and cities with significant Navajo  
26      populations.

27      E. The Navajo Nation Council hereby directs that such outreach events provide vital  
28      records services, including assistance with obtaining or renewing Navajo Nation tribal  
29      photo identification cards, CIBs, and other necessary documentation.

1 F. The Navajo Nation Council encourages collaboration with intertribal organizations,  
2 urban Indian organizations, and local partners to expand access to services and ensure  
3 Navajo citizens are informed of their rights and available resources.  
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