

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0022-26

SPONSOR: Crystalyn 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

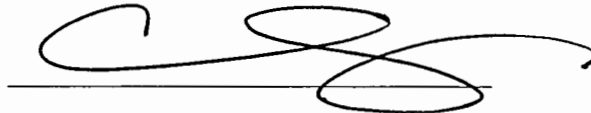
VOTE REQUIRED: Simple Majority

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.

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION

25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Fourth Year, 2026

Introduced by:



(Prime Sponsor)

Tracking No. 0022-26

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**

BE IT ENACTED:

WHEREAS:

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

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'íyáti' 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.

6
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.
- 30

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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