

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0031-26_

SPONSOR: Dr. Andy Nez

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Supporting New Mexico House Bill 20 Titled "An Act Relating to Identification; Requiring the Motor Vehicle Division of the Taxation and Revenue Department to Include Native American Designations on Driver's Licenses and Identification Cards when requested by Native American Applicants Who Submit Sufficient Documentation"

Date posted: February 6, 2026 at 5:45PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0031-26

DATE: February 6, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO HOUSE BILL 20 TITLED "AN ACT RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION; REQUIRING THE MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION OF THE TAXATION AND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TO INCLUDE NATIVE AMERICAN DESIGNATIONS ON DRIVER'S LICENSES AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS WHEN REQUESTED BY NATIVE AMERICAN APPLICANTS WHO SUBMIT SUFFICIENT DOCUMENTATION"

PURPOSE: This resolution would support the State of New Mexico House Bill 20.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Naabik'iyati' Committee


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.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: AMENDED
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 2/11/26
Eligible for Action: 2/12/26

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Fourth Year, 2026

Introduced by:

(Sponsor) 

Tracking No. 0031-26

AN ACTION
RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING NEW
MEXICO HOUSE BILL 20 TITLED “AN ACT RELATING TO
IDENTIFICATION; REQUIRING THE MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION OF THE
TAXATION AND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TO INCLUDE NATIVE
AMERICAN DESIGNATIONS ON DRIVER'S LICENSES AND
IDENTIFICATION CARDS WHEN REQUESTED BY NATIVE AMERICAN
APPLICANTS WHO SUBMIT SUFFICIENT DOCUMENTATION”

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered the Naabik'íyáti' Committee to coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700(A), 701(A)(6).
- B. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the State of New Mexico.
- C. On January 30, 2026, New Mexico House Representatives Michelle Paulene Abeyta, Alan T. Martinez, Angel M. Charley, William A. Hall II and Joseph Franklin

1 Hernandez introduced New Mexico House Bill 20, ("New Mexico House Bill 20")
2 titled "AN ACT RELATING TO IDENTIFICATION; REQUIRING THE MOTOR
3 VEHICLE DIVISION OF THE TAXATION AND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TO
4 INCLUDE NATIVE AMERICAN DESIGNATIONS ON DRIVER'S LICENSES
5 AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS WHEN REQUESTED BY NATIVE
6 AMERICAN APPLICANTS WHO SUBMIT SUFFICIENT DOCUMENTATION"
7 attached as **Exhibit A**.

8 D. New Mexico House Bill 20 states that "[a]n applicant for a driver's license may
9 request a distinguishing mark in a form determined by the department to appear on
10 the driver's license that designates the applicant as Native American; provided that
11 the distinguishing mark does not designate a specific Indian nation, tribe or pueblo or
12 include personal information submitted in the application to prove the applicant's
13 membership in a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or pueblo."

14 E. New Mexico House Bill 20 further states that "[a]n application that requests a
15 distinguishing mark on the driver's license designating the applicant as Native
16 American shall include:

- 17 1) an enhanced tribal card;
- 18 2) a tribal identification card;
- 19 3) a tribal certificate of Indian blood; or
- 20 4) a tribal or bureau of Indian affairs affidavit of birth."

21 F. New Mexico House Bill 20 provides the same procedure for identification cards for a
22 Native American applicant.

23 G. The Navajo Nation has a responsibility to protect the rights, safety, and well-being of
24 Navajo citizens wherever they reside, including those living off the Navajo Nation
25 and in urban areas.

26 H. The Navajo Nation has a strong interest in ensuring that its citizens are treated with
27 dignity and respect by state and federal agencies and that their identity as Native
28 American people is properly acknowledged.

- 1 I. The inclusion of a Native American designation on state-issued identification
2 promotes recognition of Native American citizens, improves access to services, and
3 supports accurate identification while respecting tribal enrollment documentation.
4

5 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- 6 A. The Navajo Nation supports NM House Bill 20 titled "AN ACT RELATING TO
7 IDENTIFICATION; REQUIRING THE MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION OF THE
8 TAXATION AND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TO INCLUDE NATIVE
9 AMERICAN DESIGNATIONS ON DRIVER'S LICENSES AND
10 IDENTIFICATION CARDS WHEN REQUESTED BY NATIVE AMERICAN
11 APPLICANTS WHO SUBMIT SUFFICIENT DOCUMENTATION" attached as
12 **Exhibit A.**
- 13 B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation
14 Council, the Navajo Nation President, and their designees, to advocate in support of
15 New Mexico House Bill 20.
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