

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

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

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

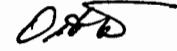
This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

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

Naabik'iyáti' Committee

1 PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
2 25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Fourth Year, 2026

3 Introduced by:

5 _____
6 (Sponsor) 

7
8
9 Tracking No. 0031-26
10

11 AN ACTION

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

19
20 WHEREAS:

21
22 A. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as Navajo Nation
23 Council standing committee and as such empowered the Naabik'iyáti' Committee to
24 coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to
25 proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C.
26 §§ 700(A), 701(A)(6).
27 B. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the State of
28 New Mexico.
29 C. On January 30, 2026, New Mexico House Representatives Michelle Paulene Abeyta,
30 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’iyáti’ 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.

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30