



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Naabik'íyáti' Committee supports New Mexico House Bill 20 to recognize Native American designation on state-issued identification



In support of New Mexico House Bill 20, the Naabik'íyáti' Committee approved Legislation No. 0031-26 recognizing Native American designation on state-issued identification cards.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Thursday, the Naabik'íyáti' Committee approved Legislation No. 0031-26, supporting New Mexico House Bill 20, a measure that would allow Native American applicants to request a Native American designation on state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards upon submission of sufficient documentation.

Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez said the measure reflects ongoing coordination between the Navajo Nation and New Mexico.

"Our government-to-government relationship requires us to engage early and advocate clearly on legislations that affects our citizens. House Bill 20 started with constituents seeking to strengthen their access to services, which further expands onto other benefits, such as minimal paperwork and prompt identification," said Delegate Nez.

New Mexico House Bill 20, introduced on Jan. 30, 2026, would require the Motor Vehicle Division of the Taxation and Revenue Department to include a distinguishing mark designating an applicant as Native American, if requested. The bill specifies that the designation would not identify a specific tribe, nation, or pueblo, nor disclose personal

enrollment information. Applicants would be required to submit documentation such as an enhanced tribal card, tribal identification card, certificate of Indian blood, or a tribal or Bureau of Indian Affairs affidavit of birth.

Members of the Naabik'íyáti' Committee emphasized that the legislation supports accurate identification processes, access to services, and promotes recognition of Native American citizens while respecting tribal documentation standards.

"This legislation helps maintain the integrity of tribal enrollment documentation. By supporting House Bill 20, the Navajo Nation affirms its commitment to protect the identity and dignity of Navajo citizens wherever they reside," said Delegate Nez.

The measure further authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, the Navajo Nation President, and their designees to advocate in support of New Mexico House Bill 20.

The Naabik'íyáti' Committee approved the resolution with a vote of 16 in favor and none opposed. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee serves as final authority.

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