

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0064-26\_

SPONSOR: Vince R. James

**TITLE: An Act Relating to the Law and Order and the Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 14 of the Navajo Nation Code to Allow for Motorcycle Traffic Lane Filtering**

***Date posted:*** March 27, 2026 at 4:46PM

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## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0064-26

**DATE:** March 23, 2026

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACT RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING TITLE 14 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE TO ALLOW FOR MOTORCYCLE TRAFFIC LANE FILTERING**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this legislation is to amend 14 N.N.C. § 400 of the Navajo Nation Motor Vehicle Code to permit operators of two-wheeled motorcycles to safely overtake stopped vehicles and operate between lanes of traffic under specified conditions, including roadway configuration and speed limitations, in order to enhance motorcyclist safety and improve traffic flow on Navajo Nation roadways.

**FINAL AUTHORITY:** Navajo Nation Council

**VOTE REQUIRED:** Simple Majority

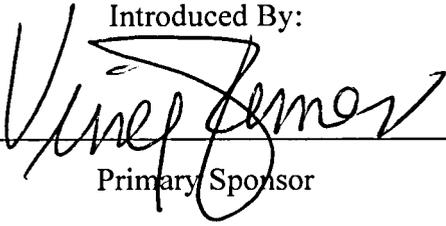
**This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.**

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Al Mike  
Website Posting Time/Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Posting End Date: 4/1/26  
Eligible for Action: 4/2/26

Law & Order Committee  
Thence  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee  
Thence  
Navajo Nation Council

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

3 Introduced By:

4   
5 \_\_\_\_\_  
6 Primary Sponsor

7  
8 Tracking No. 0064-26

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10 AN ACT  
11 RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI'  
12 COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING  
13 TITLE 14 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE TO ALLOW FOR  
14 MOTORCYCLE TRAFFIC LANE FILTERING

15  
16 BE IT ENACTED:

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18 SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- 19 A. The Law and Order Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council  
20 with the enumerated power to review and make recommendations to the Navajo  
21 Nation Council on proposed amendments to and enactments in the Navajo Nation  
22 Code. 2 N.N.C. §§ 600(A) and 601(B)(14).
- 23 B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council  
24 with the authority to hear proposed resolutions requiring final action by the Navajo  
25 Nation Council. 2. N.N.C. §§164 (A)(9), 700 (A) and 701 (A)(3).
- 26 C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §  
27 102 (A).
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1     **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 2     A. Title 14 of the Navajo Nation Code established the Navajo Nation Motor Vehicle  
3         Code, which governs the regulation and safe operation of motor vehicles on roadways  
4         within the Navajo Nation, including the use of motorcycles. 14 N.N.C § 400.
- 5     B. The Navajo Nation Council recognizes that traffic safety laws must periodically be  
6         reviewed and updated to reflect modern transportation practices, roadway conditions,  
7         and advancements in traffic safety.
- 8     C. Motorcycles operate differently from other motor vehicles and are more vulnerable in  
9         congested traffic conditions, particularly when stopped vehicles create a heightened  
10         risk of rear-end collisions involving motorcycles.
- 11    D. Several states have adopted laws permitting limited motorcycle lane filtering under  
12         controlled conditions to enhance motorcyclist safety and improve the flow of traffic.
- 13    E. In 2022, the Arizona State Legislature enacted Arizona Senate Bill 1273, attached as  
14         **Exhibit A**, which amended Arizona Revised Statutes §§ 28-729 and 28-903 to allow  
15         operators of two-wheeled motorcycles to overtake and pass stopped vehicles in the  
16         same direction of travel under specific safety conditions.
- 17    F. The Arizona law permits motorcycle lane filtering only when the roadway contains  
18         at least two adjacent lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction, when vehicles are  
19         stopped, when the posted speed limit does not exceed forty-five (45) miles per hour,  
20         and when the motorcycle does not travel faster than fifteen (15) miles per hour while  
21         filtering between lanes.
- 22    G. The Navajo Nation shares extensive transportation corridors with surrounding states,  
23         including Arizona, and many motorist and motorcyclist travel across jurisdictional  
24         boundaries daily.
- 25    H. Establishing traffic laws within the Navajo Nation that are consistent with  
26         neighboring jurisdictions, where appropriate, promotes regulatory clarity, public  
27         awareness, and safer roadway practices for residents and visitors traveling within the  
28         Navajo Nation.
- 29    I. The Navajo Nation Council finds that allowing limited motorcycle lane filtering  
30         under clearly defined safety conditions will enhance roadway safety for motorcyclist,

1 reduce the likelihood of certain traffic collisions, and modernize the Navajo Nation  
2 Motor Vehicle Code.

- 3 J. The Navajo Nation Council therefore finds it in the best interest of the Navajo Nation  
4 to amend 14 N.N.C § 400 to permit motorcycle lane filtering under specific safety  
5 conditions consistent with the intent of Arizona's lane filtering law while maintaining  
6 appropriate safeguard for the protection of the public.

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8 **SECTION THREE. AMENDING TITLE 14 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE**

- 9 A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby amends the Title 14 of the Navajo Nation Code as  
10 follows:

11 \_\_\_\_\_

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13 **TITLE 14. NAVAJO NATION MOTOR VEHICLE CODE**

14 **CHAPTER 2. CIVIL INFRACTIONS; RESPONSIBILITY AND ASSESSMENT**

15 **SUBCHAPTER 21. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

16 \* \* \*

17 **§ 400. Riding on motorcycles**

18 A. No person shall operate a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle upon a public street,  
19 road or highway in the Navajo Nation unless he or she has a valid motorcycle  
20 license.

21 B. A person operating a motorcycle shall ride only upon the permanent and regular  
22 seat attached thereto, and the operator shall not carry any other person nor shall  
23 any other person ride on a motorcycle unless the motorcycle is designed to carry  
24 more than one person, in which event a passenger may ride upon the permanent  
25 and regular seat if designed for two persons, or upon another seat firmly attached  
26 to the rear or side of the operator.

27 C. Any person operating a motorcycle not having a fixed windshield shall wear an  
28 eye protective device, which may be a face-shield attached to a safety helmet,  
29 goggles or safety eyeglasses. All eye protective devices or windshields shall be of  
30 a type complying with appropriate state regulations or codes.

1 D. Any person who violates the provisions of this Section shall be subject to a civil  
2 assessment fee not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).

3 E. Motorcycles are entitled to the full use of a traffic lane, and a person shall not  
4 operate a motor vehicle in a manner that deprives a motorcycle of the full use of a  
5 lane. This subsection does not apply to motorcycles operated two abreast within a  
6 single lane.

7 F. Except as provided in subsection (H) of this Section, the operator of a motorcycle  
8 shall not overtake and pass another vehicle in the same lane occupied by the  
9 vehicle being overtaken and shall not operate a motorcycle between lanes of  
10 traffic or between adjacent rows of vehicles.

11 G. A person shall not operate a motorcycle more than two abreast within a single  
12 lane of traffic.

13 H. Notwithstanding subsection (F) of this Section, the operator of a two-wheeled  
14 motorcycle may overtake and pass another vehicle that is stopped in the same  
15 direction of travel and may operate the motorcycle between lanes of traffic if the  
16 movement may be made safely and if the operator does both of the following:

17 1. Operates the motorcycle on a roadway that is divided into at least two  
18 adjacent traffic lanes moving in the same direction of travel; and has a posted  
19 speed limit that does not exceed forty-five (45) miles per hour.

20 2. Operates the motorcycle at a speed that does not exceed fifteen (15) miles per  
21 hour while overtaking or passing between lanes of traffic.

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26 **SECTION FOUR. CODIFICATION**

27 The provision of these amendments of the Navajo Nation Code shall incorporate codified  
28 by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall incorporate  
29 such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.

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**SECTION FIVE. SAVING CLAUSE**

If any provision of this Act is determined invalid by the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation, or by a Navajo Nation District Court without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, the remainder of this Act shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.

**SECTION SIX. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Action shall become effective in accordance with 2 N.N.C. § 221(A) and (B).