

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0069-26

SPONSOR: Shawna Ann Claw

**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CMA-16-26**

***Date posted:*** April 03, 2026 at 11:38 AM

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**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

**Tracking No.** 0069-26

**DATE:** March 26, 2026

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; OVERRIDING THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT'S VETO OF NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. CMA-16-26**

**PURPOSE:** This resolution, if approved, would override the Navajo Nation President's veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CMA-16-26.

**FINAL AUTHORITY:** Navajo Nation Council

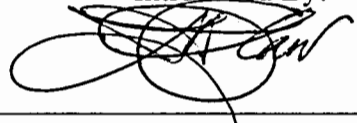
**VOTE REQUIRED:** 2/3 Vote

**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:                       
Website Posting Time/Date:                       
Posting End Date: 4/8/26  
Eligible for Action: 4/9/26

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 Shawna Ann Claw

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8 Tracking No. 0069-26

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10 AN ACTION  
11 RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE, AND THE  
12 NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; OVERRIDING THE NAVAJO NATION  
13 PRESIDENT'S VETO OF NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
14 NO. CMA-16-26

15  
16 BE IT ENACTED:

17  
18 SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- 19 A. All proposed resolutions enacting new laws or amending existing law are subject to  
20 veto by the President of the Navajo Nation Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(10) and  
21 (11) and override by the Navajo Nation Council pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(17).  
22 B. The Navajo Nation President shall have the power to veto legislation passed by the  
23 Navajo Nation Council subject to an override of the veto by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of  
24 the membership of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(11).  
25 C. A vetoed resolution shall be first submitted to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee before  
26 consideration by the Council. 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(17).  
27

28 SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- 29 A. Council Resolution CMA-16-26 was passed via consent agenda by a vote of sixteen  
30 (16) in favor and one (1) opposed, by the Navajo Nation Council during a special

1 council session on March 5, 2026. The resolution was then certified on March 12,  
2 2026, and transmitted to the Navajo Nation President for consideration. The title of  
3 CMA-16-26 is “AN ACTION RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY FOR THE  
4 NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING, CLARIFYING AND  
5 SUPERSEDING RESOLUTIONS CD-54-24 AND CJN-29-22 BY REMOVING  
6 THE DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AS ADMINISTRATIVE  
7 OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY ON ALL NNFRF PROJECTS, INCLUDING  
8 SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENTS; CLARIFYING THE OFFICE OF THE  
9 CONTROLLER AND NNFRF OFFICE AS ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT  
10 AUTHORITY FOR NNFRF PROJECTS THAT ARE SUBSTANTIALLY  
11 SIMILAR; AND CLARIFYING THAT THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT  
12 RETAINS AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE NEW CONTRACTS REGARDING  
13 NNFRF PROJECTS.”, and is attached as **Exhibit A**.

14 B. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(11), the Navajo Nation President vetoed CMA-16-  
15 26 and provided a veto message on March 22, 2026, setting forth the reasons for the  
16 veto. The President’s veto letter is attached as **Exhibit B**.

17 C. The Navajo Nation Council finds that CMA-16-26 was duly enacted in accordance  
18 with Navajo Nation law, including the Council’s authority to address emergency  
19 matters affecting governmental operations, the expenditure of Navajo Nation Fiscal  
20 Recovery Funds (“NNFRF”), and the protection of Navajo Nation funds from  
21 reversion. The Council further finds that CMA-16-26 was intended to amend, clarify,  
22 and supersede prior Council resolutions governing the NNFRF administration to  
23 remove ambiguity, streamline administration, and promote timely expenditure of  
24 NNFRF before applicable federal deadlines.

25 D. The Navajo Nation Council finds that, as the governing body of the Navajo Nation, it  
26 possesses the authority to enact, amend, clarify, and supersede prior Council  
27 resolutions concerning the administration, oversight structure, and internal  
28 governance framework applicable to NNFRF projects and expenditures. The Council  
29 further finds that CMA-16-26 does not divest the Navajo Nation President of the  
30 President’s authority to execute contracts for the Executive Branch but instead

1 clarifies the respective roles of administrative oversight and contract execution so that  
2 NNFRF projects may proceed in a timely, lawful, and orderly manner.

3 E. The Navajo Nation Council finds that the reassignment of administrative oversight  
4 authority from the Division of Community Development to the Office of the  
5 Controller and the NNFRF Office for NNFRF projects, including subrecipient  
6 agreements, is reasonably related to the purpose of improving accountability,  
7 consistency, and efficiency in the expenditure of remaining NNFRF funds. The  
8 Council finds that centralizing administrative oversight within the Office of the  
9 Controller and NNFRF Office is consistent with the Nation's need for uniform fiscal  
10 management, coordinated oversight, and expeditious review of project modifications  
11 and fund reallocations as the December 31, 2026, expenditure deadline approaches.

12 F. The Navajo Nation Council finds that clarifying the Controller's authority to move  
13 monies between NNFRF projects that are substantially similar is an appropriate  
14 legislative limitation intended to preserve the original public purpose, subject matter,  
15 and scope of previously approved NNFRF appropriations while still allowing  
16 sufficient administrative flexibility to prevent delay, project failure, or reversion of  
17 funds. The Council further finds that this clarification promotes transparency,  
18 accountability, and fidelity to the Council's original expenditure authorizations.

19 G. The Navajo Nation Council finds that Section 5 of CMA-16-26 does not create new  
20 substantive authority, nor does it authorize actions contrary to federal law or U.S.  
21 Department of the Treasury guidance. Rather, the Council finds that Section 5 was  
22 intended to clarify that, where contracts are otherwise lawfully permissible under  
23 applicable Navajo Nation law and federal requirements, the Navajo Nation President  
24 retains the authority to execute such contracts on behalf of the Executive Branch. The  
25 Council rejects any interpretation of CMA-16-26 that would require or authorize  
26 unlawful obligations or expenditures of NNFRF.

27 H. The Navajo Nation Council further finds that the waiver language in CMA-16-26 is  
28 intended to resolve conflicts among prior Council enactments and administrative  
29 directives that may impede the timely and lawful expenditure of NNFRF funds.  
30

1 I. The Navajo Nation Council finds that the reasons stated in the President's veto do not  
2 outweigh the urgent public need, legislative purpose, and practical necessity  
3 underlying CMA-16-26. The Council finds that overriding the veto is in the best  
4 interests of the Navajo Nation because CMA-16-26 provides needed clarification,  
5 strengthens administrative accountability, reduces confusion regarding NNFRF  
6 oversight, and supports the timely expenditure of NNFRF funds for the benefit of the  
7 Navajo people.

8  
9 **SECTION THREE. OVERRIDING VETO**

10 The Navajo Nation Council hereby overrides the Navajo Nation President's veto of  
11 CMA-16-26.

12  
13 **SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE**

14 The override shall become effective upon certification of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation  
15 Council, as provided for in 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(17) and 221 (A).