



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER MEDIA CONTACT: nnlb.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 18, 2026

Naabik'iyáti' Committee seeks to strengthen public safety coordination through intergovernmental agreement with Arizona DPS



Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez sponsored legislation supporting an intergovernmental agreement between the Navajo Nation and the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Thursday, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee approved a legislation aimed to strengthen public safety coordination and emergency response efforts through a proposed intergovernmental agreement between the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety, Navajo Police Department, and the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Sponsored by Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez, the legislation formalizes cooperative law enforcement operations and voluntary mutual aid assistance during emergencies and disasters affecting jurisdictions across the Navajo Nation and the State of Arizona.

Legislation No. 0045-26 would authorize collaboration intended to improve communication, coordination, and law enforcement support between the Navajo Nation and Arizona DPS while recognizing the sovereignty and jurisdictional authority of both governments. The agreement outlines procedures for mutual aid law enforcement certification, emergency assistance, investigations, extradition, and coordinated public safety operations.

The intent of the agreement is to provide cooperative law enforcement operations and voluntary mutual aid in the event of disasters or emergencies within each party's jurisdiction.

Dr. Nez indicated that the agreement represents a proactive effort to strengthen public safety partnerships while ensuring the Navajo Nation maintains its authority and commitment to protecting Diné communities.

“This legislation is about strengthening relationships that improve response capabilities, enhance communication between agencies, and ultimately help protect Navajo families and communities across Arizona. At the same time, this agreement recognizes and respects the Nation and the authority of our law enforcement personnel. Public safety does not stop at jurisdictional boundaries, especially during emergencies, disasters, or investigations that require immediate coordination,” said Dr. Nez.

The legislation further states that Arizona DPS officers receiving mutual aid law enforcement certification through the Navajo Police Department would be required to complete training regarding Navajo culture, jurisdiction, and Navajo Nation laws before operating under the agreement.

The Naabik’iyáti’ Committee serves as the final authority and approved the legislation under consent agenda with a vote of 14 in favor and none opposed.

###