

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0102-26_

SPONSOR: Vince R. James

TITLE: An Act Relating to the Law and Order, Health, Education and Human Services, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending 2 N.N.C. §§ 401 (C) and 1701 Et Seq.; Changing the Name of the Division of Human Resources to the Navajo Division of Human Services

Date posted: May 26, 2026 at 5:01PM

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. 0102-26

DATE: May 20, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACT RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING 2 N.N.C. §§ 401(C) AND 1701 *ET SEQ.*; CHANGING THE NAME OF THE DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO THE NAVAJO DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, would rename the Division of Human Resources to the Navajo Division of Human Services.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Navajo Nation Council

VOTE REQUIRED: Simple Majority

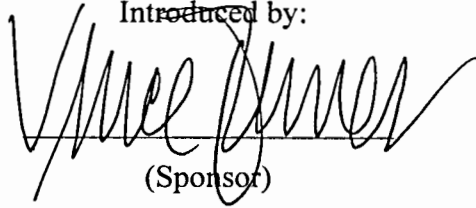
This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD:
Website Posting Time/Date:
Posting End Date: 05/31/26
Eligible for Action: 06/1/26

Law & Order Committee
Thence
Health Education & Human Services Committee
Thence
Naabik'íyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

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

3 Introduced by:

4 
5
6 (Sponsor)

7
8 Tracking No. 0102-26

9
10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
12 HUMAN SERVICES, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE
13 NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING 2 N.N.C. §§ 401(C) AND 1701
14 *ET SEQ.*; CHANGING THE NAME OF THE DIVISION OF HUMAN
15 RESOURCES TO THE NAVAJO DIVISION OF HUMAN SERVICES
16

17 BE IT ENACTED:

18
19 SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- 20 A. The Law and Order Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council
21 and is empowered to review and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation
22 Council on proposed amendments to and enactments in the Navajo Nation Code. 2
23 N.N.C. §§ 600(A) and 601(B)(14).
- 24 B. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of
25 the Navajo Nation Council and serves as the oversight for the Division of Human
26 Resources. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400(A) and 401(C).
- 27 C. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council
28 with the authority to develop all proposed resolutions that require final action by the
29 Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9).
30

1 D. The Navajo Nation Council approves enactments and amendments of positive law.
2 2 N.N.C. § 164(A).
3

4 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

5 A. The Division of Human Resources (“DHR”) was established in the Executive Branch
6 under Resolution CS-49-88. 2 N.N.C. § 1701.

7 B. On February 3, 2016, Subchapter 27 of Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code was
8 amended under Resolution CJA-3-16 which removed the Department of Veterans
9 Affairs from the DHR.

10 C. The current name of the DHR creates confusion with the Department of Personnel
11 Management, which operates under the authority of the same division and is
12 responsible for personnel administration functions.

13 D. The term “human resources” is commonly associated with personnel management,
14 hiring, employee relations, and workforce administration, which are core functions
15 of the Department of Personnel Management.

16 E. The current naming structure may lead to administrative inefficiencies, public
17 misunderstanding, and duplication or misdirection of services due to the overlap in
18 terminology.

19 F. The DHR submitted proposed amendments to the Navajo Nation Code, attached as
20 **EXHIBIT A**. The amendments will change the name of the Division of Human
21 Resources to the Navajo Division of Human Services.

22 G. The Department of Justice reviewed the proposed amendments as part of Section 164
23 review No. 025677, attached as **EXHIBIT B**, and determined the proposed
24 amendments as legally sufficient.
25

26 **SECTION THREE. AMENDING TITLE 2 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE**

27 The Navajo Nation Council hereby amends Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code as follows:
28
29
30

NAVAJO NATION CODE

1 TITLE 2. NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT
2 CHAPTER 3. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
3 SUBCHAPTER 9. STANDING COMMITTEES
4

5 Article 2. Health, Education and Human Services Committee

6 * * *

7 § 401. Powers

8 * * *

9 C. Oversight.

- 10 1. To serve as the oversight Committee for the Division of Health, Division for Children
11 and Family Services, Navajo Division of Human Services, Resources Department of
12 Diné Education, Division of General Services and to review, recommend or propose
13 the adoption, amendment or rescission of its Plan of Operation.

14 * * * *

15 NAVAJO NATION CODE
16 TITLE 2. NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT
17 CHAPTER 5. EXECUTIVE BRANCH
18 SUBCHAPTER 27. NAVAJO DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES
19

20 § 1701. Establishment

21 There is established the Navajo Division of Human Resources Services within the
22 Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation government.

23
24 § 1702. Purpose

25 The Navajo Division of Human Resources Services shall consolidate all human resources
26 services programs and activities of the Navajo Nation government within a single division
27 to facilitate effective management and delivery of human resource services programs and
28 services in a comprehensive manner.

29
30 § 1703. Personnel and organization

1 A. Personnel.

- 2 1. There is hereby established the position of the ~~Executive~~ Division Director and such
3 other positions that are necessary and provided in the budget as approved by the
4 Navajo Nation Council for the Navajo Division of Human ~~Resourees~~ Services.
5
6 2. All Navajo Division of Human ~~Resourees~~ Services personnel shall be hired and
7 compensated pursuant to the policies and guidelines of the Navajo Nation Personnel
8 Policies and ~~Proceedures~~ Manual, except the ~~Executive~~ Division Director who shall
9 be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the President of the Navajo Nation and
10 confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council.
11
12 3. The Appointed Division Director may hire staff, as Political at Will, based on special
13 projects or additional administrative duties and assignments from the Office of the
14 President and Vice President, including a Deputy Division Director or Executive
15 Staff Assistant. This authority shall be concurred by the President of the Navajo
16 Nation and staff shall serve at the pleasure of the Division Director of Human
17 Services.

18
19 B. Organization.

- 20 1. The Navajo Division of Human ~~Resourees~~ Services shall be comprised of programs
21 and administrative components as may be deemed necessary subject to legislative
22 review and approval of the department's and/or program's Pplans of Operation.
23
24 2. The Navajo Division of Human ~~Resourees~~ Services shall consist of the following
25 departments and ~~offices~~ programs:
26 a. Department of ~~Personnel Management~~ Human Resources
27 b. Navajo Department of Workforce Development
28 c. Navajo Department of Retirement Services
29 d. ~~Office of Broadcast Services~~ Navajo Nation Television and Film
30 e. Office of Navajo Labor Relations

- ~~f.~~ Office of Navajo Women and Families
- ~~g.~~ Navajo Office of Vital Records & Identification
- ~~h.~~ Navajo Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- ~~i.~~ Department of Child Support Enforcement Services
- ~~j.~~ Staff Development and Training Program
- ~~k.~~ Navajo Nation Band Program
- k. Office of Background Investigations

§ 1704. Responsibility and Authority

A. The Navajo Division of Human Resources Services provides centralized and decentralized human resources ~~program~~ services to the Navajo Nation government. The Division management is accountable to the President of the Navajo Nation for performance of its functional responsibilities in an effective and efficient manner. All management Personnel within the Division shall have sufficient authority established by their ~~p~~Plans of ~~e~~Operation to perform their job responsibilities not inconsistent with the Master Plan or Navajo law.

B. The ~~Executive~~ Director of the Navajo Division of Human Resources Services shall have the following responsibilities and authorities:

1. Be responsible for the efficient management and administration of the Navajo Division of Human Resources Services and its departments and programs;
2. Provide quarterly reports of all activities within the Navajo Division of Human Resources Services and its departments and programs to the President of the Navajo Nation and the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council;
3. Supervise and direct all department directors and program managers within the Navajo Division of Human Resources Services;
4. Develop, recommend and implement (upon adoption by the appropriate Navajo Nation legislative body) policies, rules and regulations governing matters delegated

1 to the Navajo Division of Human Resources Services and its departments and
2 programs;

- 3 5. Set priorities and participate in overall Navajo Division of Human Resources
4 Services departments' and programs' performance-based budget planning and
5 development process;
- 6 6. Conduct periodic performance review of Navajo Division of Human Resources
7 Services departments and programs for effectiveness and progress to ensure
8 compliance with the annual fiscal year performance-based budget requirements;
- 9 7. Coordinate with Navajo Division of Human Resources Services departments and
10 programs, administrative, financial and operating policies for the Navajo Division of
11 Human Resources Services; and
- 12 8. Represent the Navajo Division of Human Resources Services at executive-level
13 planning sessions.

14
15 **§ 1705. Legislative oversight**

16 The Navajo Division of Human Resources Services shall operate under the legislative
17 oversight of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation
18 Council.

19
20 **§ 1706. Amendments**

21 Sections 1701 through 1706 may be amended by the ~~Government Services~~ Naabik'iyáti'
22 Committee of the Navajo Nation Council upon the recommendation of the Health,
23 Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

24
25
26 **SECTION FOUR. CODIFICATION**

27 The provisions of the Act which amend or adopt new sections of the Navajo Nation Code
28 shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel
29 shall incorporate such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation
30 Code.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30

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 law of the Navajo Nation.

SECTION SIX. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall be effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221 (A) and (B).