

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0128-26_

SPONSOR: Casey Allen Johnson

TITLE: An Action Relating to Resources and Development Committee; Approving a Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity for the Navajo Nation Hospitality Enterprise for the La Quinta Franchise Agreement

Date posted: June 23, 2026 at 8:03PM

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. 0128-26

DATE: June 23, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION; AN ACTION RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; APPROVING A LIMITED WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION HOSPITALITY ENTERPRISE FOR THE LA QUINTA FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

PURPOSE: The purpose of this legislation is to approve a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for the Navajo Nation Hospitality Enterprises strictly related to the provisions contained in the La Quinta Franchise Agreement.

Final Authority: Resources and Development Committee

Vote Required: Majority 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: 06-28-26
Eligible for Action: 06-29-26

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Fourth Year, 2026

INTRODUCED BY


Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0128-26

AN ACTION

RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE;
APPROVING A LIMITED WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY FOR
THE NAVAJO NATION HOSPITALITY ENTERPRISE FOR THE LA
QUINTA FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 500(A).
- B. Pursuant to 5 N.N.C. § 1844, the Navajo Nation Hospitality Enterprise operates under the legislative oversight of the Economic Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.
- C. In accordance with CAP-10-11, all references to the Economic Development Committee shall mean the Resources and Development Committee.

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Navajo Nation Hospitality Enterprise (or “NNHE”) is a wholly owned enterprise of the Navajo Nation. 5 N.N.C. § 1841(A) and (B).
- B. “NNHE has and shall possess all of the attributes of Navajo sovereignty, including but not limited to immunity from suit...unless, by either contract

1 approved by NNHE in conformity with its plan of operation or by resolution of
2 the Navajo Nation Council any such attribute of sovereignty is expressly waived
3 or abrogated as to NNHE or to any transaction involving NNHE.” 5 N.N.C. §
4 1841(C).

5 C. NNHE’s Plan of Operation, Article XVI, Subsection A(2) states:

6
7 When the Enterprise’s Management Board has, in any particular matter by
8 duly adopted resolution, waived the Enterprise’s immunity from suit so as
9 to permit suit against the Enterprise in the courts of the Navajo Natin, the
10 courts of the United States or of any states as may be appropriate and agreed
11 to by the Management Board of the Enterprise. A decision by the
12 Management Board to agree to state or federal court jurisdiction with
13 respect to any matters arising for the development, construction, ownership,
14 or management of properties of the Enterprise that lie within Navajo Indian
15 country shall be valid only if such decision has been approved by resolution
16 of the Economic Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council,
17 after any consultation with the Attorney General of the Navajo Nation as
18 such Committee deems advisable.

19
20 D. NNHE and La Quinta Franchising LLC (“La Quinta”) have negotiated a
21 Franchise Agreement (herein referred to as the “La Quinta Franchise
22 Agreement”), which is attached for reference as **Exhibit A**.

23 E. Given the provisions of the La Quinta Franchise Agreement, NNHE is seeking
24 the approval of a limited waiver of NNHE’s sovereign immunity from the
25 Resources and Development Committee.

26 F. NNHE’s Management Board approved the La Quinta Franchise Agreement and
27 a limited waiver of NNHE’s sovereign immunity via Resolution No. 2022-2,
28 which is attached as **Exhibit B**.

1 G. Section 164 Review Form No. 026797, attached as **Exhibit C**, has been
2 reviewed by the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and determined to be
3 sufficient.
4

5 **SECTION THREE. APPROVAL**

6 A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby approves a limited waiver of sovereign
7 immunity for the Navajo Nation Hospitality Enterprises strictly related to the
8 provisions contained in the La Quinta Franchise Agreement attached as **Exhibit**

9 **A.**

10 B. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed, either expressed or implied, as a
11 waiver of the Navajo Nation's sovereign immunity.
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30