

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0182-26

SPONSOR: Andy Nez

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee; Approving and Adopting the Navajo Nation Artificial Intelligence Policy Statement; Establishing the Artificial Intelligence Policy Working Group

Date posted: July 21, 2026 at 4:51 PM

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. 0182-26

DATE: July 21, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE NAVAJO NATION ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY STATEMENT; ESTABLISHING THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY WORKING GROUP

PURPOSE: This legislation, if approved, would approve and adopt a Navajo Nation Artificial Intelligence Policy Statement and establish an Artificial Intelligence Policy Working Group.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Naabik'íyáti' Committee

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: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 07-26-26
Eligible for Action: 07-27-26

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

Introduced By:


(Prime Sponsor)

Tracking No. 0182-26

AN ACTION
RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; APPROVING AND
ADOPTING THE NAVAJO NATION ARTIFICAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY
STATEMENT; ESTABLISHING THE ARTIFICAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY
WORKING GROUP

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation Council, as the governing body of the Navajo Nation, is entrusted with the responsibility to safeguard the interest, rights, and traditions of the Navajo people. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).
- B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council empowered to oversee the conduct and operation of entities of the Navajo Nation not otherwise under the oversight authority of other standing committees. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164(A)(9), 700(A), 701(A)(2).
- C. The Naabik'iyati' Committee has the authority to delegate its responsibilities and authorities to other standing committees and appropriate entities provided that the Committee first approve rules and regulations governing such delegations and to rescind delegations. 2 N.N.C. § 701(B).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Diné have the right to know their sacred language, sacred way of thinking, and traditional cultural knowledge. The preservation of these and other elements of Diné life are a sacred obligation of the Diné and their government. We recognize that our traditional cultural knowledge is not only a valuable asset, but is integral to our identity, existence, and well-being. The preservation of our language and culture is vital to our survival as Diné.
- B. Data generated by and about Diné individuals, communities, and culture represent inalienable intellectual properties of the Diné over which the Navajo Nation provides protection.
- C. The Navajo Nation has already recognized its ownership over any intellectual property, products, and services, and all other outcomes that may come from genetic and genomic research with Navajo participants and all associated forms of life within the Navajo Nation during any step of the research process. See NABID-61-24, Section 3, Paragraph 3.
- D. The Navajo Nation recognizes that the rapid development and proliferation of artificial intelligence technology (AI) presents both significant opportunities and challenges for the Navajo Nation and its citizens, and that the pace of AI's evolution has exceeded the ability to meaningfully protect the intellectual property of the owners of data, knowledge, and other information used by AI technologies.
- E. AI is utilizing common tropes and misconceptions of Navajo culture, imagery, and daily life found on the worldwide internet to create and further perpetuate stereotypes of the Navajo people, as illustrated in the Navajo Times article on Artificial Intelligence "The Navajo AI Flower: AI-generated Diné girl peeks into AI knowledge from non-Navajo creators". Non-Navajo Nation citizens are developing AI systems that extract culturally sensitive ceremonial and spiritual knowledge utilizing an agentic AI bot for their own personal gain. AI also allows for uses that exploit Diné sacred knowledge and resells it to the Diné people.
- F. It is imperative for the Navajo Nation to take a stance on what culturally sensitive materials and content it is willing to share with AI and what degree of allowable data

1 can be used by Navajo Nation citizens and non-citizens for personnel and
2 commercial use.

3 G. In this dynamic landscape, the existing legal frameworks require a fresh review to
4 effectively safeguard Diné existence through robust assertion and protection of our
5 rights, culture, and all forms of Diné knowledge, traditional or otherwise.

6 H. The establishment of new legal frameworks, specifically designed to address the
7 unique challenges posed by the rapid proliferation and use of AI, is critical for
8 protecting and preserving the Diné's rights.

9 I. These frameworks must consider the concepts of data privacy, transparency, prior
10 informed consent, the intellectual property rights of the owners of the information,
11 and other knowledge at risk of unauthorized use by AI technologies.

12 J. Engaging with Navajo Nation citizens, information technologists, Diné educators,
13 Diné cultural and spiritual experts and leaders, legal experts, and other community
14 stakeholders is essential for informing the development of laws and policies designed
15 to reflect the needs and values of the people, while protecting the Navajo Nation and
16 its citizens from exploitation.

17 K. The promulgation of an AI Policy Statement and the formation of an AI Policy
18 Working Group will help ensure that the Navajo Nation's policy and legal framework
19 rises to meet the challenges of the current AI environment.

20 21 **SECTION THREE. THE NAVAJO NATION ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** 22 **POLICY STATEMENT**

23 The Naabik'íyáti' Committee hereby approves and adopts the Navajo Nation statement of
24 policy on artificial intelligence attached as **Exhibit A**.

25 26 **SECTION FOUR. ESTABLISHING THE NAVAJO NATION ARTIFICIAL** 27 **INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY WORKING GROUP**

28 A. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee hereby establishes the Navajo Nation AI Policy
29 Development Working Group ("Working Group") for the general purpose of
30 developing Navajo Nation AI policies.

1 B. The focus of the Working Group includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- 2 1. Examine the AI's impacts on the Navajo culture and Diné people. Evaluate how
3 the use of AI may affect the Navajo Nation's traditional knowledge, cultural
4 expressions, intellectual and other property rights, including a thorough
5 analysis of both potential benefits and risks;
- 6 2. Investigate the potential for AI to improve the lives of our people, including
7 opportunities in education, historic preservation, government efficiency, land
8 management, healthcare, economic development, and other sectors as may be
9 determined appropriate by the Working Group;
- 10 3. Analyze the costs and benefits of AI, considering the potential risks to our rights
11 and cultural integrity, ensuring that the Navajo Nation understands whether
12 benefits come at the expense of Diné culture.
- 13 4. Survey and analyze existing laws, policies, and regulations that pertain to AI
14 and intellectual property, including how such legal frameworks relate to
15 language, traditional cultural knowledge and expression, and other relevant
16 rights, and identify gaps that should be addressed to protect our interests;
- 17 5. Explore collaboration, including with companies and vendors that provide
18 technology tools with AI systems, and assess whether these and other
19 relationships can be structured to protect our information and data while
20 leveraging AI tools to expand opportunities and increase efficiency in various
21 sectors;
- 22 6. Assess the overall cost-benefit analysis of the use of AI by Navajo Nation
23 citizens versus the amount of natural resource extraction of minerals and metals
24 and vast amounts of water required to build and maintain AI systems.
- 25 7. Develop policies and guidelines for the responsible use of AI technologies,
26 ensuring that any use of Navajo data and information considers principles of
27 consultation, transparency, and informed consent;
- 28 8. Consult community stakeholders with the goal of understanding and giving
29 prominence to Diné people's views; and
30

9. Establish an appropriate regulatory framework by which the Navajo Nation can meet its sacred obligation to protect our culture, our people, and the right to our unique and sacred Diné existence.

C. The Working Group voting members shall consist of seven members as follows:

1. A representative from Navajo communities who has cultural experience, education, and knowledge in artificial intelligence, intellectual property, data science research, machine learning, or associated ethics study. This individual will be selected by the Speaker's Office pursuant to a public call for interested individuals.
2. A representative from an academic institution who has cultural experience and knowledge in artificial intelligence, intellectual property, data science research, machine learning, and associated ethics study. This individual will be selected by the Speaker's Office pursuant to a public call for interested individuals.
3. A representative from the Navajo Nation Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department;
4. A representative from the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education, appointed through a Board resolution;
5. A representative from the Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology (DIT), appointed by the Department Director;
6. The Economist employed by the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development (DED), or if no Economist is employed by the Division, a representative from DED appointed by the Division Director.
7. A member of the Navajo Nation Council, appointed by resolution of the Naabik'íyáti' Committee. A new resolution by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee under a new Council will only be needed if the appointed member of the Navajo Nation Council is not reelected. As long as the appointed member remains a member of the Navajo Nation Council, they shall continue to serve on the Working Group.
8. Non-voting membership and other participation is permitted and encouraged.

1 D. The Working Group shall have the authorities necessary to implement and
2 accomplish the purposes set forth above and specific responsibilities and authorities
3 as follows:

- 4 1. The Working Group shall collaborate with programs, departments, and entities
5 within the Navajo Nation to achieve the purposes and goals described herein.
- 6 2. The Working Group may collaborate with programs and departments within the
7 state and federal government as may be appropriate to achieve the purposes and
8 goals described herein.
- 9 3. The Working Group shall work together in the development of the code
10 amendments, policies, and procedures regarding AI policy and regulation
11 necessary to complete the purposes described herein.

12 E. The Working Group shall report its findings and policy recommendations to the
13 Naabik'iyáti' Committee one year from the enactment of this legislation. On this
14 date, based on the report, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee will determine the Working
15 Group's next steps, including whether to reauthorize the Working Group to continue
16 for another year.

17 18 **SECTION FIVE. WORKING GROUP OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

- 19 A. The Working Group shall elect a Chairperson and may create additional Officer
20 positions as needed. The Working Group may create a process by which these
21 Officers are to be selected.
- 22 B. The Working Group shall operate by resolution with a simple majority of Working
23 Group members constituting a quorum.
- 24 C. The Working Group shall establish its own meeting rules including an attendance
25 policy. Until such rules are adopted the Working Group shall utilize the Rules for
26 Standing Committees.
- 27 D. The Working Group shall hold virtual meetings unless it is determined by a majority
28 of the Working Group an in-person meeting is needed.
- 29 E. The Working Group members employed by the Navajo Nation shall not be
30 compensated but shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses at the rates set forth

1 in the applicable Navajo Nation Travel Policies. Working group members not
2 employed by the Nation will be reimbursed for travel expenses consistency with
3 Navajo Nation Travel Policies to attend Work Group activities.

4 F. The Working Group members shall serve until the Working Group is dissolved.

5 G. The Office of the Speaker, Office of Legislative Services, and other necessary
6 legislative branch programs shall provide technical assistance, clerical, and
7 administrative assistance. The Navajo Nation Department of Justice and the Office
8 of Legislative Counsel shall provide legal assistance and guidance to the Working
9 Group.

10 H. Navajo Nation laws, policies, and regulations shall apply to the Working Group and
11 its members.
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30