



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navajo Nation Council approves legislation renaming Division of Human Resources to the Navajo Division of Human Services



Council Delegate Vince R. James sponsored legislation to officially change the name of the Division of Human Resources to the Navajo Division of Human Services.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On July 20th, the Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0102-26, officially changing the name of the Division of Human Resources to the Navajo Division of Human Services, with the intention to better reflect the division's mission and reduce confusion with the Department of Personnel Management. The legislation amends provisions of Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code governing the division and its oversight.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Vince R. James indicated the change represents an important administrative modernization that will improve government services.

"This will bring greater clarity to how the Navajo Nation delivers essential human services by ensuring the division's name accurately reflects its mission and responsibilities. A clear organizational structure strengthens accountability, improves public understanding, and helps our government better serve the Navajo people," said Delegate James.

The current name created confusion because "human resources" is commonly associated with personnel administration, hiring, employee relations and workforce management, functions that are already carried out by the Department of Personnel Management. The legislation states that renaming the division will provide greater administrative clarity, improve public understanding of available services, and more accurately represent the broad range of human services programs administered by the division.

The Division of Human Resources noted that it has evolved significantly over the years, including the removal of the Department of Veterans Affairs from its organizational structure in 2016. The legal review by the Navajo Nation Department of Justice determined the proposed amendments to be legally sufficient.

The legislation now updates references to the division throughout the Navajo Nation Code, including its legislative oversight responsibilities, organizational structure, and statutory authorities, while maintaining continuity in the delivery of workforce development and other public service programs.

The Navajo Nation Council approved the legislation under the consent agenda by a vote of 21 in favor and none opposed. The Navajo Nation Council serves as the final authority on the measure.

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