

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0195-26_

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Action to an Emergency for the Navajo Nation Council; Rejecting the President's Renewed Recommendation of Kris Beecher, Esq. as the Navajo Nation Attorney General; Declining to Recognize or approve Kris Beecher, Esq. as Acting Attorney General; and Directing His Immediate Removal from the Office of the Attorney General

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0195-26

DATE: August 24, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; REJECTING THE PRESIDENT'S RENEWED RECOMMENDATION OF KRIS BEECHER, ESQ. AS THE NAVAJO NATION ATTORNEY GENERAL; DECLINING TO RECOGNIZE OR APPROVE KRIS BEECHER, ESQ. AS ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL; AND DIRECTING HIS IMMEDIATE REMOVAL FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

PURPOSE: This legislation, if approved, rejects President Nygren's renewed recommendation of Kris Beecher as Acting Attorney General and directs the immediate removal of Kris Beecher from the Office of the Attorney General.

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.

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

Introduced by:



Primary Sponsor

Tracking No. 0195-26

AN ACTION

**RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION
COUNCIL; REJECTING THE PRESIDENT'S RENEWED
RECOMMENDATION OF KRIS BEECHER, ESQ. AS THE NAVAJO
NATION ATTORNEY GENERAL; DECLINING TO RECOGNIZE OR
APPROVE KRIS BEECHER, ESQ. AS ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL;
AND DIRECTING HIS IMMEDIATE REMOVAL FROM THE OFFICE
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation and may consider legislation regarding an emergency matter. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102(A) and 164(A)(16).
- B. “[M]atters constituting an emergency shall be limited to the cessation of law enforcement services, and disaster relief services, fire protection services or other direct services requires as an entitlement under Navajo Nation or Federal law, or which directly threaten the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation. Such an emergency matter must arise due to the pressing public need for such resolution(s) and must be a matter requiring final action by the Council. 2 N.N.C. § (164)(A)(16).

- 1 C. The Office of the Attorney General is a division of the Executive Branch, and the
2 lawful occupancy of the offices of the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General
3 directly affects the delivery of legal services essential to the operation of Navajo
4 Nation government and the defense of the Nation's sovereign interests. The
5 uncertainty surrounding the lawful authority of an individual purporting to hold or
6 exercise the powers of these offices constitutes a matter that directly threatens the
7 sovereignty of the Navajo Nation.
- 8 D. An individual exercising the powers of the Attorney General or Deputy Attorney
9 General without lawful appointment and approval by the Council places at risk every
10 legal action, opinion, representation, and determination taken in the name of the
11 Navajo Nation, thereby creating a pressing public need.
- 12 E. The Navajo Nation therefore finds that this Action is an emergency matter affecting
13 critical government services for the Navajo People and the sovereignty of the Navajo
14 Nation, and this Action must be approved without delay to meet an urgent and
15 pressing public need.

16 17 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 18 A. The Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General shall be appointed by the Navajo
19 Nation Council, upon the recommendation of the President. The appointment of the
20 Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General shall be effective upon the approval
21 of the Navajo Nation Council. The Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General
22 serve at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 1962(B).
- 23 B. The President's recommendation for an Attorney General is not effective nor confers
24 lawful authority to hold the office of the Attorney General unless and until the
25 Navajo Nation Council ("Council") approves the appointment. The President's
26 recommendation, standing alone, does not vest the appointee with the office of
27 Attorney General. Both the authority to appoint and approve an Attorney General
28 belongs to the Council; the President's authority is to recommend, and these
29 authorities are distinct in both law and effect.
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- 1 C. The distinction between the authorities to appoint and approve, as to the authority to
2 recommend is foundational to the separation of powers within the Navajo Nation
3 government, and these authorities carry different meanings. Under 2 N.N.C. §
4 1962(B), the President of the Navajo Nation recommends a candidate to serve as
5 Attorney General, with the Council appointing and approving an Attorney General.
6 The President's recommendation for the Attorney General is only a nomination, not
7 an appointment nor approval to be Attorney General. The appointing and approving
8 authorities of the Attorney General belong to the Council alone.
- 9 D. Because the appointing and approving authorities belong to the Council, the Council
10 is not bound to appoint nor approve any candidate recommended by the President.
11 The Council retains the full and independent discretion to approve or not approve a
12 recommended candidate, and the exercise of that discretion is a proper and lawful
13 function of the Legislative Branch.
- 14 E. On December 18, 2024, President Buu Nygren recommended Kris Beecher, Esq. to
15 be the Attorney General. The President's recommendation was submitted to the
16 Council as Legislation No. 0005-25, attached as **Exhibit A**.
- 17 F. Legislation No. 0005-25 was withdrawn by its sponsor and the Council therefore took
18 no final action appointing nor approving Mr. Beecher under that legislation. As a
19 result, the first recommendation of Mr. Beecher for the Attorney General position was
20 never considered by the Navajo Nation Council.
- 21 G. On October 22, 2025, President Buu Nygren for a second time recommended Kris
22 Beecher, Esq. for the Attorney General, and held him out as "Acting" Attorney
23 General effective October 23, 2025. This recommendation for Attorney General was
24 submitted to the Council as Legislation No. 0249-25, attached as **Exhibit B**.
- 25 H. On November 13, 2025, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee tabled Legislation No. 0249-25
26 and referred it to the Navajo Nation Council.
- 27 I. On November 26, 2025, the Navajo Nation Council considered Legislation No. 0249-
28 25 for the appointment and approval of Kris Beecher, Esq. as the Attorney General.
29 The vote for Legislation No. 0249-25 failed by a unanimous vote of 00 in favor and
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1 19 opposed, with the Speaker not voting. The Council lawfully voted not to confirm
2 Mr. Beecher as the Attorney General.

3 J. Notwithstanding the Navajo Nation Council's clear and unanimous vote of non-
4 confirmation of the recommendation for Attorney General, President Buu Nygren for
5 a third time recommended Kris Beecher, Esq. for Attorney General, and Mr. Beecher
6 purportedly continues to occupy and exercise the powers of the Office of the Attorney
7 General under the title of "Acting" Attorney General.

8 K. The repeated recommendation and rejection of the same nominee for Attorney
9 General by President Buu Nygren undermines the appointment and approval authority
10 granted exclusively to the Council and frustrates the balance of the separation of
11 powers of the Navajo Nation Government between the Executive and Legislative
12 Branches.

13 L. To date, in regard to President Buu Nygren's third recommendation of Mr. Beecher,
14 Esq. for Attorney General, the Navajo President has not sought confirmation
15 sponsorship from the Navajo Nation Council, nor has any member of the Navajo
16 Nation Council on their own accord introduced legislation for Mr. Beecher's
17 confirmation as Attorney General.

18 M. The Navajo Nation Code does not establish or recognize the position of either acting
19 or interim Attorney General. The Council has not legislated the position of acting or
20 interim Attorney General. An individual whom the Council has declined to appoint
21 and approve cannot lawfully serve in the office of Attorney General in any capacity,
22 whether acting or interim.

23 N. When "acting" is referenced in a governmental context, it is understood as a
24 temporary administrative designation and cannot be used to avoid or indefinitely
25 postpone confirmation required by Navajo law.

26 O. The repeated recommendation of a nominee whose confirmation has failed, and his
27 continued occupation of the office over the Navajo Nation Council's express
28 objection, circumvents the will of the Navajo Nation Council whom the Attorney
29 General serves at the pleasure of, undermines public confidence in the administration
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1 of justice, and is contrary to the orderly functioning of the Navajo Nation Department
2 of Justice.

3 P. The Navajo Nation Council finds that Kris Beecher, Esq. has no lawful authority to
4 hold or exercise the powers of the Office of the Attorney General, and that his
5 continued occupation of that office is without the consent of the governing body of
6 the Navajo Nation.

7 Q. The Navajo Nation and its people make clear that the President's renewed
8 recommendation is rejected, that Mr. Beecher is not recognized nor approved as
9 "Acting" Attorney General, and that he must vacate the Office of the Attorney
10 General immediately.

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12 **SECTION THREE. REJECTION OF APPOINTMENT OF KRIS BEECHER AS**
13 **ATTORNEY GENERAL AND DIRECTION FOR REMOVAL OF KRIS**
14 **BEECHER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENREAL**

15 A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby rejects and declines to confirm President Buu
16 Nygren's renewed recommendation of Kris Beecher, Esq. as the Navajo Nation
17 Attorney General. This action reaffirms the Council's prior rejection of Mr. Beecher's
18 confirmation under Legislation No. 0249-25 by a vote of 00 in favor and 19 opposed
19 on November 26, 2025.

20 B. The Navajo Nation Council does not recognize, approve, or consent to Kris Beecher,
21 Esq. serving as "Acting" Attorney General, and withholds any approval that may be
22 necessary for him to hold or exercise the powers of that office in any acting or interim
23 capacity. Mr. Beecher has no authority to present himself as the Navajo Nation
24 Attorney General in any capacity, as such, Mr. Beecher's participation with external
25 Navajo Nation entities as Attorney General are null and void.

26 C. The Navajo Nation Council finds that Kris Beecher, Esq. has no lawful authority to
27 hold, occupy, or exercise the powers of the office of the Attorney General of the
28 Navajo Nation, in either a permanent or an "acting" capacity, and directs that he be
29 removed from the Department of Justice and the Office of the Attorney General
30 immediately.

- 1 D. Kris Beecher, Esq. shall immediately vacate the office of the Attorney General, cease
2 holding himself out as the Navajo Nation Attorney General or “Acting” Attorney
3 General, and cease exercising any authority, control, or function of that office.
- 4 E. Should Kris Beecher, Esq. refuse to vacate the office of the Attorney General after
5 being directed to do so, his continued entry upon and presence on the premises and
6 offices of the Department of Justice and the Office of the Attorney General shall be
7 deemed to be without the consent or permission of the Navajo Nation, the person in
8 lawful possession thereof, and he shall be subject to charge for Criminal Trespass
9 under 17 N.N.C. § 350, and any other applicable provision of Navajo Nation law.
- 10 F. The Navajo Nation Council directs the Office of the Speaker to transmit a certified
11 copy of this resolution to the President of the Navajo Nation; to Kris Beecher, Esq.; to
12 the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and to the Navajo Police Department, and
13 requests that the President recommend a qualified candidate for the office of the
14 Attorney General consistent with 2 N.N.C. § 1962(B).
- 15 G. Nothing herein prevents the President from recommending another qualified
16 candidate for the office of Attorney General.
- 17 H. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed to ratify, approve, or validate any act
18 taken by Kris Beecher, Esq. purporting to exercise the office of the Attorney General
19 after his confirmation failed.
- 20 I. Nothing in this resolution shall automatically invalidate prior actions taken by the
21 Office of the Attorney General. Any legal challenge to a specific action shall be
22 determined under applicable Navajo law.
- 23 J. All Navajo Nation Government Departments, Divisions, and Programs shall not
24 adhere to, accept, nor consider any counsel or actions from Mr. Beecher when he has
25 purported himself as the concerning their governmental authorities, obligations, and
26 responsibilities concerning any of their legal issues when Mr. Beecher purports and
27 holds himself as the Navajo Nation Attorney General.
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SECTION FOUR. DIRECTIVES

1 A. The President shall recommend an Attorney General no later than 30 days after this
2 legislation becomes effective. If the President does not recommend an Attorney
3 General nominee within 30 days of the effective date of this legislation, then the
4 office of Attorney General will remain vacant for the remainder of President Buu
5 Nygren's term as President.

6 B. The Navajo Nation Department of Justice shall provide the Navajo Nation Council
7 with an inventory of pending litigation, active contracts, settlement authority and
8 federal grant certifications within 30 days of the effective date of this legislation.

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10 **SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE**

11 This Action shall become effective in accordance with 2 N.N.C. § 221(A) and (C).
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