

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0218-26_

SPONSOR: Shawna Ann Claw

TITLE: An Act Relating to the Law and Order and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(1); Removing December 31st as the Last Day for Consideration of Resolutions Prior to the Swearing-In of a New Council

Date posted: September 28, 2026 at 6:16PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0218-26

DATE: September 21, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACT RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(1); REMOVING DECEMBER 31ST AS THE LAST DAY FOR CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS PRIOR TO THE SWEARING-IN OF A NEW COUNCIL

PURPOSE: This proposed resolution, if approved, will amend Title 2, Navajo Nation Code, Section 164(A)(1), to allow the sitting Council to continue considering and acting on legislation after December 31 until the newly elected Council is sworn in and assumes office.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Navajo Nation Council

VOTE REQUIRED: 2/3 Vote of the Navajo Nation Council

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: ALMKT
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 10/3/26
Eligible for Action: 10/4/26

Law & Order Committee
Thence
Naabik'iyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

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

Introduced by:



(Prime Sponsor)

Tracking No. 0218-26

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI'
COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING 2
N.N.C. § 164 (A)(1); REMOVING DECEMBER 31ST AS THE LAST DAY
FOR CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS PRIOR TO THE
SWEARING-IN OF A NEW COUNCIL

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Law and Order Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council empowered to review and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council on proposed amendments to and enactments in the Navajo Nation Code. 2 N.N.C. §§ 600(A) and 601(B)(14).
- B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council empowered to review proposed legislation which requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700(A) and 164(A)(9).
- C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- 1 A. Under the Navajo Nation Election Code, newly elected Delegates of the Navajo
2 Nation Council shall be installed in office at noon on the second Tuesday after the
3 first Monday of January following their election and their predecessors' term of office
4 shall expire upon their installation in office. 11 N.N.C. § 6(B).
- 5 B. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(1), December 31st is currently established as the last
6 day for consideration of resolutions prior to the swearing-in of a new Council.
- 7 C. There is a need to amend the Navajo Nation Council and Committee Legislative
8 Process to provide that the sitting Council may continue to consider and act upon
9 resolutions, including emergency legislation, after December 31 and until the newly
10 elected Delegates are sworn in and assume office. The existing December 31 cutoff
11 may prevent the sitting Council from completing consideration of pending legislative
12 matters or addressing urgent matters arising during the transition between the
13 expiration of the legislative year and the installation of the newly elected Council.
14 Removing the December 31 cutoff will ensure continuity of legislative authority and
15 allow the sitting Council to continue performing its legislative responsibilities
16 without interruption until the newly elected Council assumes office.

17
18 **SECTION THREE. AMENDING TITLE 2 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE**

19 The Navajo Nation hereby amends Title 2, Navajo Nation Code, Section 164(A)(1) as
20 follows:
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23 * * *

24 **Title 2, Navajo Nation Government**

25 **Chapter 3. Legislative Branch**

26 **Subchapter 2. Navajo Nation Council Meetings**

27 * * *

28 **§ 164. Navajo Nation Council and committee legislative process**

- 29 A. Statements of policy, enactment of positive law, intergovernmental agreements,
30 budget resolutions, and reallocations, must be reviewed and approved by

1 resolution by the appropriate standing committee(s) and the Navajo Nation
2 Council except as otherwise provided herein.

3 1. Except for statutorily enumerated situations as set out in 2 N.N.C. §
4 164(A)(16), only Council Delegates or standing committees may introduce
5 a proposed resolution to the standing committee(s) and the Navajo Nation
6 Council, except where Navajo government employees are authorized by
7 statute or regulation to introduce a proposed resolution. ~~The last day for~~
8 ~~consideration of resolutions shall be December 31st of the year immediately~~
9 ~~preceding the swearing in of the new Council.~~ Council Delegates, standing
10 committees, and other Navajo government employees who are statutorily
11 authorized to introduce proposed resolutions, may seek the assistance of
12 either the Office of Legislative Counsel or other legal counsel employed by
13 the Navajo Nation to draft proposed resolutions. The Office of Legislative
14 Counsel shall ensure that the proposed resolution is drafted in the proper
15 codification format before it is assigned a number and introduced into the
16 legislative process. The Office of Legislative ~~Council~~ Counsel shall notify
17 the Council by memorandum of the legal sufficiency of each proposed
18 resolution.

19 * * *

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22 **SECTION FOUR. CODIFICATION**

23 The provisions of these amendments of the Navajo Nation Code shall be codified by the
24 Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall incorporate such
25 amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.

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27 **SECTION FIVE. SAVINGS CLAUSE**

28 Should any provisions of these amendments be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation
29 Supreme Court, or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo
30 Nation Supreme Court, those amendments that are not determined invalid shall remain the

1 law of the Navajo Nation.

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3 **SECTION SIX. EFFECTIVE DATE**

4 The Navajo Nation Code amendment enacted herein shall be effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C.
5 § 221 (A) and (B).
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