

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0219-26_

SPONSOR: Rickie Nez

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Budget and Finance, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Allocating \$9,000,000 from the Navajo Nation Síhasin Fund for the Tiis Tsoh Síkaad New Chapter House Project; Approving and Adopting the Chapter's Project Expenditure Plan Pursuant to 12 N.N.C §§ 2501 - 2508

Date posted: September 29, 2026 at 12:15PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0219-26

DATE: September 28, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, BUDGET AND FINANCE, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ALLOCATING \$9,000,000 FROM THE NAVAJO NATION SÍHASIN FUND FOR THE TÍIS TSOH SÍKAAD NEW CHAPTER HOUSE PROJECT; APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE CHAPTER'S PROJECT EXPENDITURE PLAN PURSUANT TO 12 N.N.C §§ 2501 – 2508

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, would allocate \$9,000,000 from the Navajo Nation Síhasin Fund for the Tiis Tsoh Sikaad new Chapter House and powerline project.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Navajo Nation Council

VOTE REQUIRED: 2/3 vote of the full membership

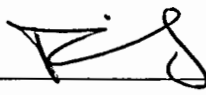
This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD:
Website Posting Time/Date:
Posting End Date: 10-04-26
Eligible for Action: 10-05-26

Resources & Development Committee
Thence
Budget & Finance 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. 0219-26

AN ACTION

**RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, BUDGET AND
FINANCE, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION
COUNCIL; ALLOCATING \$9,000,000 FROM THE NAVAJO NATION SÍHASIN
FUND FOR THE TÍIS TSOH SÍKAAD NEW CHAPTER HOUSE PROJECT;
APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE CHAPTER'S PROJECT EXPENDITURE
PLAN PURSUANT TO 12 N.N.C §§ 2501 – 2508**

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with oversight authority over Chapter activities to promote, review, coordinate and approve projects to be financed by funds designated for capital improvement. 2 N.N.C. § 500(A) and (C)(5).
- B. The Budget and Finance Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council empowered to “appropriate, allocate, cancel, re-appropriate and review the use of Navajo Nation funds received including but not limited to all grants, contracts, gifts and other funds from all sources.” 2 N.N.C. §§ 300(A) and 301(B)(3).

1 C. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council
2 empowered to hear proposed resolutions that require final action by the Navajo
3 Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9).

4 D. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §
5 102(A).

6 E. The Navajo Nation Code (at 12 N.N.C. § 2502, as amended by CJA-03-18) provides
7 that the purpose of the Navajo Nation Síhasin Fund (the "Síhasin Fund" or "Fund") is
8 as follows:

9 **§ 2502 Purpose**

10 A The purposes of this Fund are to provide financial support and/or financing
11 for:

12 1. The planning and development of economic development and regional
13 infrastructure supporting economic development and community
14 development, including such infrastructure as, but not limited to, housing,
15 commercial and government buildings, waterline, solid waste management
16 development, powerline projects, transportation and communication
17 systems, within the Navajo Nation; and

18 2. Education opportunities for members of the Navajo Nation.

19 B. For the Purpose in § 2502(A)(1), Fund expenditures for infrastructure shall
20 not be limited by 12 NNC § 1310(F) or TCDCJY-77-99.

21 C. Leveraging the Fund by way of guaranteeing loans, match funding, direct
22 funding in part, and other weighted uses of the Fund, including loan financing
23 from the Fund, for the purposes in § 2502(A)(1), shall be favored over direct
24 funding in whole.

25 F. The Síhasin Fund provides that "Fund Principal" shall consist of all deposits made to
26 the Síhasin Fund and that "Fund Income" shall consist of all earnings (interest,
27 dividends, etc.) generated and realized by the Fund Principal, and that Fund Income
28 shall be deposited in and added to Fund Principal until such time as a Fund
29 Expenditure Plan is duly adopted. 12 N.N.C. §§ 2504 and 2505 (C).

1 G. The Síhasin Fund provides that “Fund Principal and Income shall not be expended
2 except pursuant to a Fund Expenditure Plan consistent with the purposes set forth in §
3 2502 of this Chapter and adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the
4 Navajo Nation Council.” 12 N.N.C. § 2505(A).

5 6 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

7 A. Chapter Houses serve as essential governmental and community facilities, providing
8 space for local governance, public meetings, delivery of essential services, and
9 community programs for the Navajo people.

10 B. The existing Chapter House for the Tíis Tsoh Sikaad Chapter is inadequate, outdated,
11 and no longer capable of meeting the needs of the community due to structural
12 deficiencies.

13 C. The Navajo Nation previously approved funding for the construction of a new
14 Chapter House through ARPA and Síhasin allocations in the amount of \$1,667,056
15 and \$342,112.87, respectively.

16 D. The Chapter has demonstrated readiness to proceed with the project upon receipt of
17 additional funding and has compiled all applicable planning, design, and regulatory
18 requirements for the project.

19 E. An Environmental Assessment for the project has been completed, attached as
20 **Exhibit A**, demonstrating compliance with applicable environmental review
21 requirements.

22 F. A geotechnical engineering report for the project has been completed, attached as
23 **Exhibit B**, evaluating site conditions and suitability for construction.

24 G. A design proposal outlining the scope, layout, specifications and construction
25 estimates of the proposed Chapter house has been prepared and is attached as **Exhibit**
26 **C**.

27 H. The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority provided a letter dated December 11, 2025,
28 attached as **Exhibit D**, detailing the preliminary cost estimate for utility upgrades for
29 the new Chapter house.
30

- 1 I. The Office of the Controller provided a memorandum, attached as **Exhibit E**,
2 detailing the unaudited balance of the Síhasin Fund as of August 31, 2025.
- 3 J. The Tíis Tsoh Síkaad Chapter provided Resolution TTS-RES-25-07-069, attached as
4 **Exhibit F**, which details the Chapter's approved 2027-2031 Infrastructure Capital
5 Improvement Plan.
- 6 K. The Tíis Tsoh Síkaad Chapter provided Resolution TTS-RES-25-07-070, attached as
7 **Exhibit G**, requesting funding for the Final Design and Construction of a new
8 Chapter house in the amount of \$9,000,000.
- 9 L. On December 8, 1906, the Advisory Committee of the Navajo Tribal Council passed
10 Resolution ACD-228-60, attached as **Exhibit H**, detailing the approved land
11 withdrawal for the Chapter.
- 12 M. The Tíis Tsoh Síkaad Chapter provided the Burnham Chapter House Tract Surveys,
13 attached as **Exhibit I**.
- 14 N. The Tíis Tsoh Síkaad Chapter prepared the required Síhasin Fund Expenditure Plan
15 for the new Chapter house project, which is attached as **Exhibit J**.
- 16

17 **SECTION THREE. APPROVAL OF SÍHASIN FUNDING AND ADOPTION OF**
18 **THE SÍHASIN FUND EXPENDITURE PLAN**

- 19 A. The Navajo Nation hereby approves and adopts funding for the Síhasin Fund
20 Expenditure Plan in the amount of \$9,000,000 from the Navajo Nation Síhasin Fund,
21 in accordance with 12 N.N.C. § 2505(A).
- 22 B. The Navajo Nation hereby approves and adopts the Síhasin Fund Expenditure Plan,
23 detailed in **Exhibit J**.
- 24 C. The Síhasin Funds allocated for the Expenditure Plan may be further leveraged by
25 bond or loan financing pursuant to the Navajo Nation Bond Financing Act, 12 N.N.C.
26 § 1300 *et seq.*, as amended, using Síhasin Fund earnings for repayment and financing
27 costs upon the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee and approval
28 by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the Navajo Nation Council.
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1 **SECTION FOUR. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF SÍHASIN FUND**
2 **EXPENDITURE PLAN ADMINISTRATION**

3 The Navajo Nation Council hereby approves the administration of the Síhasin Fund
4 Expenditure Plan Project as follows:

- 5 A. The Navajo Nation Controller shall determine whether the source of the annual
6 allocations from the Project's total allocation of \$9,000,000 will be Síhasin Fund
7 Principal or Income or a combination of both.
- 8 B. The Síhasin funding for the Project will be distributed to the Navajo Division of
9 Community Development ("DCD") in accordance with a disbursement schedule as
10 determined by the Controller in consultation with the DCD. The DCD shall be
11 responsible for carrying out the Project, in accordance with the Project described in
12 **Exhibit J.**
- 13 C. The Síhasin funds allocated shall be used solely to design, plan, and construct as
14 described in **Exhibit J.** Any and all cost-savings shall be returned to the Síhasin
15 Fund once the project is completed.
- 16 D. Funds for the Project that are not spent or encumbered within 36 months of the date
17 funds are made available to the DCD shall revert to the Síhasin Fund principal, unless
18 otherwise recommended by the Resources and Development Committee of the
19 Navajo Nation Council and approved by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee.
- 20 E. Síhasin Funds are excluded from the appropriation lapse provisions in the
21 Appropriations Act pursuant to 12 N.N.C. §820(N).

22
23 **SECTION FIVE. DIRECTIVES**

24 The Navajo Nation Division of Community Development shall report the status of the
25 Project to the Resources and Development Committee and to the Naabik'iyáti'
26 Committee on a quarterly basis.

27
28 **SECTION SIX. EFFECTIVE DATE**

29 The Síhasin Fund Expenditure Plan, as set forth above, shall become effective pursuant to
30 12 N.N.C. § 2505.

1 **SECTION SEVEN. SAVING CLAUSE**

2 Should any provision(s) of this Act be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme
3 Court or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation
4 Supreme Court, the remainder of the Act shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.
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