

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0235-26

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Health, Education and Human Services, Resources and Development, Budget and Finance and Naabik'iyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Allocating \$1,700,000 from the Síhasin Fund to Division of General Services for Accessibility Improvements at Chapter Houses and Other Public Facilities; Approving and Adopting the Project Expenditure Plan Pursuant to 12 N.N.C. §§ 2501-2508

Date posted: October 06, 2026 at 11:25 PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0235-26

DATE: October 6, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, BUDGET AND FINANCE, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ALLOCATING \$1,700,000 FROM THE SÍHASIN FUND TO THE DIVISION OF GENERAL SERVICES FOR ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT CHAPTER HOUSES AND OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES; APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE PROJECT EXPENDITURE PLAN PURSUANT TO 12 N.N.C. §§ 2501–2508

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, would provide funding to conduct comprehensive building assessments to identify accessibility deficiencies at Navajo Nation Chapter facilities

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: AMK
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 10/11/26
Eligible for Action: 10/12/26

Health Education & Human Services Committee
Thence
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. 0235-26

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES,
RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, BUDGET AND FINANCE, AND
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;
ALLOCATING \$1,700,000 FROM THE SÍHASIN FUND TO THE DIVISION OF
GENERAL SERVICES FOR ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS AT
CHAPTER HOUSES AND OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES; APPROVING AND
ADOPTING THE PROJECT EXPENDITURE PLAN PURSUANT TO 12 N.N.C.

§§ 2501-2508

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with oversight authority over the Division of General Services. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400(A) and 401(C)(1).
- B. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with oversight authority 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).

- 1 C. The Budget and Finance Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation
2 Council with the authority to review and recommend to the Council the budgeting,
3 appropriation, investment and management of all funds. 2 N.N.C. §§ 300(A) and
4 301(B)(2).
- 5 D. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation
6 Council with the authority to hear proposed resolutions that require final action by
7 the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9).
- 8 E. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §
9 102(A).
- 10 F. The Navajo Nation Code (at 12 N.N.C. § 2502, as amended by CJA-03-18)
11 provides that the purpose of the Navajo Nation Síhasin Fund (the "Síhasin Fund")
12 is as follows:

13 **§ 2502 Purpose**

- 14 A The purposes of this Fund are to provide financial support and/or financing
15 for:
- 16 1. The planning and development of economic development and regional
17 infrastructure supporting economic development and community
18 development, including such infrastructure as, but not limited to,
19 housing, commercial and government buildings, waterline, solid waste
20 management development, powerline projects, transportation and
21 communication systems, within the Navajo Nation; and
- 22 2. Education opportunities for members of the Navajo Nation.
- 23 B. For the Purpose in § 2502(A)(1), Fund expenditures for infrastructure shall
24 not be limited by 12 NNC § 1310(F) or TCDCJY-77-99.
- 25 C. Leveraging the Fund by way of guaranteeing loans, match funding, direct
26 funding in part, and other weighted uses of the Fund, including loan
27 financing from the Fund, for the purposes in § 2502(A)(1), shall be favored
28 over direct funding in whole.
- 29 G. The Síhasin Fund provides that "Fund Principal" shall consist of all deposits made
30 to the Síhasin Fund and that "Fund Income" shall consist of all earnings (interest,

dividends, etc.) generated and realized by the Fund Principal, and that Fund Income shall be deposited in and added to Fund Principal until such time as a Fund Expenditure Plan is duly adopted. 12 N.N.C. §§ 2504 and 2505(C).

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

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. In July 2018, the Navajo Nation Council passed the Navajo Nation Civil Rights of Individuals with Disabilities Act, that requires entities and agencies across the Navajo Nation to provide reasonable accommodations for Navajos with disabilities. The Act does not include specific regulations to be enforced on the Navajo Nation. Certain Navajo entities, such as those that receive federal funds, are required to abide by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Americans with Disability Act standards for accessibility. Not all Navajo entities are required to follow these standards, causing inconsistent applications of accessibility on the Navajo Nation.
- B. The Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Disabilities (NNACOD) has advocated for the Navajo Nation to adopt regulations and policies to provide equal access to employment, housing, education, services, and buildings in furtherance of the Civil Rights Act of Individuals with Disabilities of 2018.
- C. The NNACOD provides the following recommendations on good practices and ways to reasonably accommodate Navajo citizens with disabilities for future elections inside voting areas, as stated in its May 2013 report:
1. Voting instructions should be printed in 14-type print and prominently displayed.
 2. The voting area should be arranged with a minimum of 36-inch-wide pathways and aisles to provide maneuvering for voters using wheelchairs, walkers or other mobility devices.

3. All necessary parts of the voting system should be no higher than 48 inches.
4. The tops of tables and counters used for voting should be between 28 to 34 inches high.
5. The voting booths/tables should have a writing shelf clearance of at least 27 inches underneath.
6. The voting tables should be at least 19 inches deep.
7. Magnifying devices should be available for those who request them.
8. The area where votes are cast should be well lit.
9. Seating in a waiting area should be available for all individuals with various types of disabilities.

D. NNACOD also recommends that polling locations follow the 2016 Americans with Disabilities Act checklist to determine whether a polling place has basic accessibility features needed by voters with disabilities

E. The Navajo Division of General Services ("DGS") is requesting \$1,700,000 from the Sihasin Fund to conduct comprehensive building assessments to identify accessibility deficiencies at Navajo Nation Chapter facilities.

F. DGS provides maintenance of the Nation's buildings including all structural, mechanical and electrical services, heating and cooling systems, grounds maintenance, custodial services and limited building renovations. 2 N.N.C. § 1252.

G. DGS has overseen the limited building renovations of accessibility deficiencies in Navajo Nation government buildings.

H. DGS prepared Navajo Nation Budget Forms and the Appendix J – Supplemental Funding Proposal Summary, which are provided in **Exhibit A** for informational purposes only.

I. DGS prepared the Navajo Nation Accessibility Deficiencies Expenditure Plan ("Accessibility Deficiencies Expenditure Plan"), which is attached as **Exhibit B**.

1 **SECTION THREE. APPROVAL OF SÍHASIN FUNDING AND ADOPTION OF**
2 **THE ACCESSIBILITY DEFICIENCIES EXPENDITURE PLAN**

- 3 A. The Navajo Nation hereby approves and adopts funding for the Accessibility
4 Deficiencies Expenditure Plan in the amount of \$1,700,000 from the Navajo Nation
5 Síhasin Fund to the Division of General Services; in accordance with 12 N.N.C. §
6 2505(A).
- 7 B. The Navajo Nation hereby approves and adopts the Accessibility Deficiencies
8 Expenditure Plan, detailed in **Exhibit B**.
- 9 C. The Síhasin Funds allocated for the Expenditure Plan may be further leveraged by
10 bond or loan financing pursuant to the Navajo Nation Bond Financing Act, 12
11 N.N.C. § 1300 *et seq.*, as amended, using Síhasin Fund earnings for repayment and
12 financing costs upon the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee
13 and approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the Navajo Nation
14 Council.

15
16 **SECTION FOUR. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF ACCESSIBILITY**
17 **DEFICIENCIES EXPENDITURE PLAN ADMINISTRATION**

18 The Navajo Nation Council hereby approves the administration of the Accessibility
19 Deficiencies Expenditure Plan project as follows:

- 20 A. The Navajo Nation Controller shall determine whether the source of the annual
21 allocations from the Project's total allocation of \$1,700,000 will be Síhasin Fund
22 Principal or Income or a combination of both.
- 23 B. The Síhasin funding for the Project will be distributed to the Division of General
24 Services ("DGS") in accordance with a disbursement schedule as determined by the
25 Controller in consultation with DGS. The DGS shall be responsible for carrying out
26 the project, in accordance with the Accessibility Deficiencies Expenditure Plan
27 described in **Exhibit B**.
- 28 C. The Síhasin funds allocated shall be used solely to conduct comprehensive building
29 assessments to identify accessibility deficiencies at Navajo Nation Chapter
30

1 facilities, as described in **Exhibit B**. Any unexpended funds shall be returned to the
2 Síhasin Fund upon completion of the assessments.

3 D. Funds for the Project that are not spent or encumbered within 36 months of the date
4 funds are made available to the DGS shall revert to the Síhasin Fund principal,
5 unless otherwise recommended by the Resources and Development Committee of
6 the Navajo Nation Council and approved by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee.

7 E. Síhasin Funds are excluded from the appropriation lapse provisions in the
8 Appropriations Act pursuant to 12 N.N.C. § 820(N).
9

10 **SECTION FIVE. DIRECTIVES**

11 A. The Division of General Services and the Division of Community Development
12 shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement authorizing the Division of General
13 Services to oversee limited building renovations to correct accessibility deficiencies
14 at Navajo Chapter houses and other public facilities.

15 B. The Division of General Services shall submit written reports, and verbal reports if
16 so requested, explaining the status of the Accessibility Deficiencies Expenditure
17 Plan to the Resources and Development Committee and to the Naabik'íyáti'
18 Committee on a quarterly basis.
19

20 **SECTION SIX. EFFECTIVE DATE**

21 This Action and the Accessibility Deficiencies Expenditure Plan, as set forth above, shall
22 become effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221(B) and 12 N.N.C. § 2505.
23

24 **SECTION SEVEN. SAVING CLAUSE**

25 Should any provision(s) of this Action be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation
26 Supreme Court or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo
27 Nation Supreme Court, the remainder of the Action shall remain the law of the Navajo
28 Nation.
29
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