THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION

LEGISLATION NO: 0271-26 **SPONSOR: Carl R. Slater**

TITLE: **An Action Relating to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee; Supporting, With Recommendations, the Tribal Provisions of the United States Department of Agriculture's Proposed Rule on Work Requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Approving the Navajo Nation's Written Comments; and Requesting Government-to-Government Consultation**

Date posted: **November 13, 2026 at 7:48 PM**

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET
Tracking No. 0271-26

DATE: November 13, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING, WITH RECOMMENDATIONS, THE TRIBAL PROVISIONS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S PROPOSED RULE ON WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; APPROVING THE NAVAJO NATION'S WRITTEN COMMENTS; AND REQUESTING GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

PURPOSE: This legislation, if approved, would support, with recommendations, the tribal provisions of the United States Department of Agriculture's proposed rule on work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, approve the Navajo Nation's written comments, and request government-to-government consultation.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Naabik'íyáti' Committee

VOTE REQUIRED: Simple Majority Vote

This written summary does not address amendments as may be proposed before the Budget and Finance Committee. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: AMike III
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 11-18-26
Eligible for Action: 11-19-26

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Fourth Year, 2026

Introduced by:

L. LN SN

Primary Sponsor

Tracking No. 0271-26

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING, WITH RECOMMENDATIONS, THE TRIBAL PROVISIONS OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S PROPOSED RULE ON WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; APPROVING THE NAVAJO NATION'S WRITTEN COMMENTS; AND REQUESTING GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

WHEREAS:

A. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with oversight authority to coordinate with all committees the appearance and testimony of the Navajo Nation before federal, state and other non-Navajo governmental entities, and it is empowered to review and continually monitor the programs and activities of federal and state departments and to coordinate with all committees, Chapters, branches and entities concerned with all Navajo appearances and testimony before departments of the United States government. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700(A) and 701(A)(7) and (8).

B. The United States has a trust responsibility to the Navajo Nation and obligations under the Treaty of 1868, and it must honor those obligations, including through

meaningful government-to-government consultation, whenever it acts in ways that affect the Navajo people.

C. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") is administered for Navajo households by the States of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. According to the United States Census Bureau's 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, as compiled by the University of Arizona, 33.0 percent of the 48,978 households on the Navajo Nation received SNAP benefits, compared with 11.4 percent of households nationwide, and the unemployment rate on the Navajo Nation was 14.6 percent, compared with 5.5 percent nationwide.

D. In Pub. L. No. 119-21, commonly called the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Congress extended the SNAP time limit for certain adults to individuals through age 64, limited the exception for household members responsible for a child to children under 14 and removed the exceptions for homeless individuals, veterans and former foster youth, and Congress excepted from the time limit individuals who are Indians, Urban Indians or California Indians, as defined in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. 7 U.S.C. § 2015(o)(3)(F) and (G).

E. On November 10, 2026, the United States Department of Agriculture ("Department") published a proposed rule titled "Modification to Work Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults," 91 Fed. Reg. 72,439 (Nov. 10, 2026), Docket No. FNA-2025-0368, with written comments due on or before December 10, 2026. The proposed rule is attached as **Exhibit A** and is available at https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-22944.

F. The proposed rule would codify the changes made by Pub. L. No. 119-21, including the exception for Indians, Urban Indians and California Indians, and would also restrict the areas and data that may support waivers of the time limit, generally limit waiver approvals to one year, allow the Department to deny a waiver request based on contrary evidence and revise the definition of homeless individual.

G. In the proposed rule, the Department affirms that an individual need only meet the statutory definitions to qualify for the exception and that "there is no further requirement to live on Reservation lands," and it proposes that waivers of the time

limit may cover the intrastate portion of a reservation area, supported by data from the entire reservation, with alternative data allowed where federal labor statistics are limited. 91 Fed. Reg. at 72,442-44, 72,446.

H. The proposed rule does not list the documents that State agencies must accept to verify the exception, does not define "reservation area" and does not address individuals who lost SNAP under the time limit after the exception took effect on July 4, 2025.

I. The Department offered tribal consultation on October 15, 2025, before it published the proposed rule, and it states that it will work with its Office of Tribal Relations if a tribe requests further consultation. 91 Fed. Reg. at 72,446-47.

J. Executive Order 13175 requires each federal agency to have an accountable process to ensure meaningful and timely input by tribal officials in the development of regulatory policies that have tribal implications. 65 Fed. Reg. 67,249 (Nov. 9, 2000).

K. The Navajo Nation has prepared written comments on the proposed rule, attached as **Exhibit B**, which support the provisions implementing the exception for Indians, Urban Indians and California Indians and recognizing reservation areas for waivers, recommend improvements to verification, definitions and reservation-area waivers and request government-to-government consultation.

L. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee finds it in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to support the tribal provisions of the proposed rule with the recommendations in the written comments, to approve the written comments attached as **Exhibit B** and to request government-to-government consultation with the Department.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

A. The Navajo Nation supports the provisions of the United States Department of Agriculture's proposed rule, "Modification to Work Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults," 91 Fed. Reg. 72,439 (Nov. 10, 2026), that implement the exception from the SNAP time limit for Indians, Urban Indians and California Indians and that recognize reservation areas for waivers of the time limit, and recommends that the

Department adopt the improvements described in the written comments attached as **Exhibit B**.

B. The Navajo Nation approves the written comments attached as **Exhibit B** and authorizes their submission to the United States Department of Agriculture for inclusion in the record of Docket No. FNA-2025-0368.

C. The Navajo Nation requests government-to-government consultation with the United States Department of Agriculture before any final rule is issued and before the Department issues guidance on verifying the exception for Indians, Urban Indians and California Indians or on waivers of the time limit for reservation areas.

D. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Vice-President, the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, and their designees to take all steps necessary to advocate for the Navajo Nation's position with respect to this resolution.