

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0029-23

DATE: February 27, 2023

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; REAFFIRMING NABIN-70-18: RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES VETERAN AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A VETERANS HOSPITAL AND CREATE PERSONNEL POSITIONS TO ADDRESS HOUSING AND BENEFITS ON THE NAVAJO NATION FOR NAVAJO NATION VETERANS

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will reaffirm NABIN-70-18.

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

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: 4:35pm ; 03-02-23
Posting End Date: 03-07-23
Eligible for Action: 03-08-23

Health Education & Human Services Committee
Thence
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—FIRST YEAR, 2023

INTRODUCED BY



Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0029-23

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI'
COMMITTEES; REAFFIRMING NABIN-70-18: RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE
UNITED STATES VETERAN AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A
VETERANS HOSPITAL AND CREATE PERSONNEL POSITIONS TO ADDRESS
HOUSING AND BENEFITS ON THE NAVAJO NATION FOR NAVAJO NATION
VETERANS

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHS) as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered HEHS to review and recommend resolutions regarding veterans and/or veteran services. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 400 (A), 401 (B)(6)(a) (2012). *See also* CO-45-12.
- B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'iyáti' Committee to coordinate with all committees, Chapters, branches and entities concerned with all Navajo appearances and testimony before Congressional committees, and departments of the United States government. *See* 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A), 701 (A)(8) (2015); *See also* CO-45-12.

- 1 C. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the United
2 States of America, Treaty of 1868, Aug. 12, 1868, 15 Stat. 667.
- 3 D. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council passed NABIN-70-
4 18; requesting the United States Veteran Affairs Administration to establish a
5 Veterans hospital and create personnel positions to address housing and benefits for
6 Navajo Veterans on the Navajo Nation. See NABIN-70-18 attached as Exhibit 1.
- 7 E. Historically, Native Americans served in the military at a higher rate than any other
8 ethnic group. U.S. GOV'T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, HEALTH CARE ACCESS:
9 IMPROVED OVERSIGHT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PRIORITIZATION CAN IMPROVE
10 ACCESS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS 1 (2014).
- 11 F. Currently, the United States has not established U.S. Veteran Affairs office or services on
12 the Navajo Nation. As such, Navajo veterans must travel off reservation to seek veteran
13 services.
- 14 G. The Navajo Nation has established a Veterans Administration through appropriations
15 from the Navajo Nation General Fund; however, assistance through the Navajo Veterans
16 Administration is limited to housing and financial assistance.
- 17 H. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to request the United States Department of
18 Veterans Affairs to establish a veteran's hospital and create personnel positions to
19 address housing and other benefits on the Navajo Nation to meet the needs of the Navajo
20 veterans.
21

22
23 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- 24 A. The 25th Navajo Nation Council reaffirms NABIN-70-18.
- 25 B. The Navajo Nation respectfully requests the United States Department of Veterans
26 Affairs to establish a veteran's hospital and create personnel positions to address housing
27 and other benefits on the Navajo Nation to meet the needs of the Navajo veterans.
- 28 C. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation
29 Speaker, Navajo Washington Office and their designees, to advocate for this request.
30

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE
23rd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2018

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED
STATES VETERANS AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A VETERANS
HOSPITAL AND CREATE PERSONNEL POSITIONS TO ADDRESS HOUSING AND
BENEFITS ON THE NAVAJO NATION FOR NAVAJO NATION VETERANS

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHSC) as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered HEHSC to review and recommend resolutions regarding veterans and/or veteran services. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 400 (A), 401 (B)(6)(a) (2012). See also CO-45-12.
- B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'íyáti' Committee to coordinate with all committees, chapters, branches and entities concerned with all Navajo appearances and testimony before Congressional committees and departments of the United States government. See 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A), 701 (A)(8) (2015); See also CO-45-12.
- C. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the United States of America, Treaty of 1868, Aug. 12, 1868, 15 Stat. 667.
- D. Historically, Native Americans served in the military at a higher rate than any other ethnic group. U.S. Gov't ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, HEALTH CARE ACCESS: IMPROVED OVERSIGHT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PRIORITIZATION CAN IMPROVE ACCESS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS 1 (2014).
- E. Currently, there are over 128,000 living Native American veterans with approximately 10,000 from the Navajo Nation. See U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates: 2011-2015 American Community Survey American Indian and Alaska Native Tables.


- F. Native American veterans have provided invaluable service and allegiance to the United States of America and bring great honor to their tribal communities.
- G. Within the last 5 years, reports of excessive, and sometimes deadly, waiting times for veterans seeking government healthcare came to light, and President Obama promised accountability. Scott Bronstein & Tom Cohen, *Obama: Shinseki stays for now, but VA misconduct will be punished*, CNN (May 23, 2014) available at www.cnn.com.
- H. In 2010, tribal leaders and representatives offered comments on the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and Indian Health Service (IHS) 2010 Memorandum of Understanding and other health related issues. One comment recorded showed that IHS understood the native culture, languages, and background; however, IHS did not understand the specific needs of Native veterans like the VA, i.e. post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: 2012 TRIBAL CONSULTATION REPORT 11 (2012).
- I. There is currently no United States Veteran Affairs office or services on the Navajo Nation. This requires Navajo veterans to travel off reservation to seek veteran services. The Navajo Nation has established a Veterans Administration through appropriations from the Navajo Nation General Fund; however, assistance through the Navajo Veterans Administration is limited to housing and financial assistance.
- J. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to request the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a veteran's hospital and create personnel positions to address housing and other benefits on the Navajo Nation to meet the needs of the Navajo veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. The Navajo Nation respectfully requests the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a veteran's hospital and create personnel positions to address housing and other benefits on the Navajo Nation to meet the needs of the Navajo veterans.
- B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker, Navajo Washington Office and their designees to advocate for this request.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 10 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 09th day of November 2018.



LoRenzo C. Bates, Chairman
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

Motioned: Honorable Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Second : Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

Chairman LoRenzo C. Bates not voting

Pursuant to § 700 (D), A quorum of the committee shall be satisfied by the presence of two (2) members of each Standing Committee or a majority of delegates of the Navajo Nation Council.

NAVAJO NATION

RCS# 1105

Naa'bik'iyati Committee

11/9/2018
01:07:44 PM

Amd# to Amd#

Legislation 0323-18:

PASSED

MOT Slim

Respectfully Requesting the US

SEC Begay, K

Veterans Affairs Administration
to Establish a Veterans Hospital

Yea : 10

Nay : 0

Excused : 1

Not Voting : 12

Yea : 10

Begay, K
Bennett
Brown

Crotty
Daniels
Hale

Jack
Pete

Slim
Tso

Nay : 0

Excused : 1

BeGaye, N

Not Voting : 12

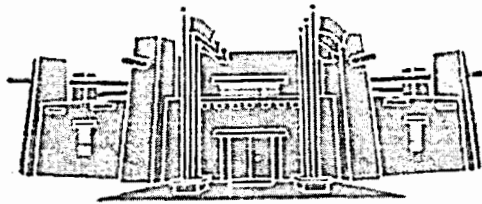
Bates
Begay, NM
Chee

Damon
Filfred
Kieyoomia

Perry
Phelps
Shepherd

Smith
Tsosie
Yazzie

Office of Legislative Counsel
Telephone: (928) 871-7166
Fax #: (928) 871-7576

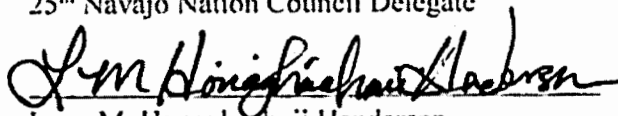


Honorable Crystalyn Curley
Speaker
25th Navajo Nation Council

MEMORANDUM

TO: Seth Damon
25th Navajo Nation Council Delegate

FROM:


Loya M. Honaghaahnii Henderson
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: February 27, 2023

**SUBJECT: RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; REAFFIRMING NABIN-70-18:
RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES VETERAN AFFAIRS
ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A VETERANS HOSPITAL AND CREATE
PERSONNEL POSITIONS TO ADDRESS HOUSING AND BENEFITS ON THE
NAVAJO NATION FOR NAVAJO NATION VETERANS**

I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. Based on existing law and review of documents submitted, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. As with any action of government however, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge.

The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) based on the standing committees powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§301, 401, 501, 601 and 701. Nevertheless, "the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall introduce [the proposed resolution] into the legislative process by assigning it to the respective oversight committee(s) of the Navajo Nation Council having authority over the matters for proper consideration." 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

Please ensure that his particular resolution request is precisely what you want. You are encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0029-23_

SPONSOR: Seth Damon

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Health, Education and Human Services and Naabik'iyáti' Committees; Reaffirming NABIN-70-18: Respectfully Requesting the United States Veteran Affairs Administration to Establish a Veterans Hospital and Create Personnel Positions to Address Housing and Benefits on the Navajo Nation for Navajo Nation Veterans

Date posted: March 2, 2023 4:35 PM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*