



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council Establishes Diné Bizaad Subcommittee

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Sept. 6, 2019 – Legislation 0235-19 approving the creation of the Diné Bizaad Subcommittee was passed by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019 at a special meeting at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber.

The Diné Bizaad Subcommittee will be comprised of six members that will assist existing Navajo language programs by providing policy guidance and support from the Navajo Nation Council.

The legislation was sponsored by Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown and was approved by the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee prior to consideration by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee.

Both the Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education and the Diné Studies Conference, Inc. provided support for the creation of the Diné Bizaad Subcommittee.

The Diné Bizaad Subcommittee is tasked with maintaining the Navajo language for all Navajo People and will focus on language revitalization for all who seek to learn Diné Bizaad. The subcommittee will directly coordinate with Diné elders, Navajo language teachers, Diné youth, the Department of Diné Education, public schools, Diné College, Navajo Technical University, immersion schools and the three branch chiefs of the Navajo Nation.

"The Diné Bizaad Subcommittee is based on years of partnership with Diné language programs and those that want to learn how to speak Navajo," said Council Delegate Nathaniel Brown.

During the presentation of the legislation before the Naabik'íyáti' Committee, Delegate Brown shared testimony from members of the Navajo Nation living across the country.

"Our goal is to promote the development of policy and tools that will work hand-in-hand. This is a positive step in carrying Diné Bizaad forward to future generations, whether they are here within Diné Bikéyah or abroad," said Delegate Brown.

The Diné Bizaad Subcommittee will work to identify areas of policy that will support immersive and innovative Navajo language learning experiences that take into consideration new technologies and tools, said Delegate Brown.

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