

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0233-24

SPONSOR: Shawna Ann Claw

**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Law and Order Committee, the Naabik'iyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 1 of the Navajo Nation Code, Adding Chapter 4: Official Language of the Navajo Nation**

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**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

Tracking No. 0233-24

**DATE:** October 21, 2024

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACTION RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING TITLE 1 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE, ADDING CHAPTER 4: OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE NAVAJO NATION

**PURPOSE:** This resolution, if approved, would make Dine Bizzad the official language of the Navajo Nation.

**Final Authority:** Navajo Nation Council

**Vote Required:** Two-Thirds Vote of Council

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

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD JSM  
Website Posting Time/Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Posting End Date: 11-02-24  
Eligible for Action: 11-03-24

Law & Order Committee  
Thence  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee  
Thence  
Navajo Nation Council

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
2 25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Second Year, 2024

3 Introduced by:

4   
5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 (Prime Sponsor)

7  
8 Tracking No. 0233-24

9  
10 AN ACTION  
11 RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI'  
12 COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;  
13 AMENDING TITLE 1 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE, ADDING  
14 CHAPTER 4: OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE NAVAJO NATION  
15

16  
17 BE IT ENACTED:

18  
19 SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- 20 A. The Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is empowered to review and  
21 make recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council on proposed amendments to and  
22 enactments to the Navajo Nation Code, pursuant to 12 N.N.C. § 601(B)(14).  
23 B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council that  
24 reviews legislations requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council, pursuant to 2  
25 N.N.C. §164(A)(9), 2 N.N.C. §701(A)(3).  
26 C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation with the authority  
27 to review and approve amendments to Navajo Nation laws, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §102(A),  
28 2 N.N.C. §164(A).  
29  
30

1 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

2 A. The Diné Customary Law declares and teaches that it is the right and freedom of the Diné  
3 that the sacred Diné language (Nihiiinéí’), be taught and preserved so that they may be  
4 provided a holistic education of values and principles underlying the purposes of living in  
5 balance with all creation, walking in beauty. 1 N.N.C. § 204 (A) and (C).

6 B. The Dine received various spiritual healing and teaching through worship, song and prayer  
7 (Nahaghá), which must be preserved, taught, maintained and performed in their original  
8 forms. 1 N.N.C. § 203 (G).

9 C. “As Diné, we are the image of our ancestors and we are created in connection with all  
10 creation. Upon our creation we are identified by:

11 Our Diné name,

12 Our clan

13 ***Our language,***

14 Our life way,

15 Our shadow,

16 Our footprints.

17 Therefore, we are called the Holy Earth-Surface-People [*Diyin Nohookáá Diné*].” *Tsosie*  
18 *v. Deschene* and *Whitethorne v. Deschene*, SC-CV-57-14 and SC-CV-58-15. *See also* 1  
19 N.N.C. § 201 (emphasis added).

20 D. Since time immemorial, our people survived by maintaining our value system given by the  
21 Holy People. The core of our value system is embedded in the language. *Id.* at 10-11.

22 E. Given these reasons, the Navajo Nation finds it in the best interest of the Navajo Nation  
23 and the Diné People to amend Title 1 of the Navajo Nation Code, as set forth herein.

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25 **SECTION THREE. AMENDING TITLE 1 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE.**

26 The Navajo Nation hereby amends Title 1 of the Navajo Nation Code, as follows:

27  
28 **NAVAJO NATION CODE ANNOTATED**

29 **TITLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

30 **CHAPTER 4. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE NAVAJO NATION**

1  
2 § 401 Official Language of the Navajo Nation

3 Diné Bizaad is the official language of the Navajo Nation.

4 § 402 Preserving and enhancing the role of the official language

5 The Navajo Nation Government shall have an affirmative obligation to preserve and  
6 enhance the role of Diné Bizaad as the official language of the Navajo Nation. Such an  
7 obligation shall include encouraging greater opportunities for individuals to learn the Diné  
8 Bizaad.

9  
10 **SECTION FOUR. CODIFICATION**

11 The provisions of this resolution that amend or adopt new sections of the Navajo Nation Code  
12 shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall  
13 incorporate such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.

14  
15 **SECTION FIVE. SAVING CLAUSE**

16 If any portion of this Act is determined to be invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court or  
17 by a District Court of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court,  
18 the remainder of this Act shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.

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20 **SECTION SIX: EFFECTIVE DATE**

21 The provisions of this Act shall become effective according to 2 N.N.C. §221(B).  
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