

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0242-24

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Removing Ethel Branch as Attorney General

Date posted: November 08, 2024 at 4:55 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.*

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

Tracking No: 0242-24

DATE: November 4, 2024

SUBJECT: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI'
COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;
REMOVING ETHEL BRANCH AS ATTORNEY GENERAL

PURPOSE OF THIS LEGISLATION:

If approved by the Navajo Nation Council, the current sitting Attorney General, Ethel Branch, will be removed from her position.

FINAL AUTHORITY AND VOTE REQUIREMENT:

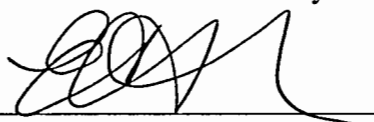
The Navajo Nation Council has final authority; a simple majority Vote of all delegates is required for this legislation to pass.

OLC No. 24-431-1

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD Al Mike Tu
Website Posting Time/Date _____
Posting End Date: 11/13/24
Eligible for Action: 11/14/24

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
2 25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Second Year, 2024

3 Introduced by:

4 
5 _____
6 (Prime Sponsor)

7
8 Tracking No. 0242-24

9
10 AN ACTION
11 RELATING TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION
12 COUNCIL; REMOVING ETHEL BRANCH AS ATTORNEY GENERAL
13

14 BE IT ENACTED:

15
16 SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

17 A. All proposed legislation requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council is assigned to
18 the Naabik'iyáti' Committee for its review and consideration. 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(9); 2 N.N.C.
19 §700(A).

20 B. "The Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General shall be licensed attorneys. The
21 Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General shall be appointed by the Navajo Nation
22 Council, upon the recommendation of the President, to serve at a negotiated salary. The
23 appointment shall be effective upon the approval of the Navajo Nation Council, for a term
24 concurrent with the term of the President. The Attorney General and Deputy Attorney
25 General shall serve at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council. All other attorneys shall
26 serve at a negotiated salary and at the pleasure of the Attorney General." 2 N.N.C. §1962(B).

27
28 SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

29 A. The Attorney General works at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council. Therefore, the
30 Attorney General can be removed from her position with or without cause, by action of the

1 Navajo Nation Council.

2 B. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1962(C), “[t]he Deputy Attorney General shall serve in the stead of
3 the Attorney General, with full authority of the Attorney General, in the event of the death,
4 disability, or removal of the Attorney General, until a new Attorney General is approved by
5 the Navajo Nation Council.”

6
7 **SECTION THREE. REMOVAL OF ETHEL BRANCH AS ATTORNEY GENERAL**
8 **OF THE NAVAJO NATION**

9 As of the effective date of this Action, Ethel Branch shall be removed as the Attorney General
10 of the Navajo Nation.

11
12 **SECTION FOUR. RECOGNIZING DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL**

13 The Navajo Nation Council hereby recognizes the authority of the current Deputy Attorney
14 General of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, Ms. Heather Clah, to act in place of the
15 removed Attorney General, until such time as a replacement Attorney General is approved by
16 the Council.

17
18 **SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE**

19 This Action shall become effective in accordance with 2 N.N.C. §221(C), 2 N.N.C. §1962(B).
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30