

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0002-25

SPONSOR: Shaandiin Parrish

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee; Approving and Supporting the State of Utah House Bill 30, Utah Indian Family Preservation Act

Date posted: January 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0002-25

DATE: January 14, 2025

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'IYATI' COMMITTEE; APPROVING AND SUPPORTING THE STATE OF UTAH HOUSE BILL 30, UTAH INDIAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT

PURPOSE: The purpose of this proposed resolution is to approve support of the State of Utah House Bill 30, the Utah Indian Family Preservation Act that will align the State of Utah's child welfare system with the Indian Child Welfare Act and to authorize the Navajo Nation President, Speaker and their designees to advocate in support of the bill with State of Utah legislators.

Final Authority: Naabik'íyáti' Committee

Vote Required: Simple Majority

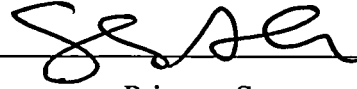
This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD
Website Posting Time/Date
Posting End Date: 01-21-25
Eligible for Action: 01-22-25

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PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL— Third Year, 2025

INTRODUCED BY



Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. 0002-25

**AN ACTION RELATING TO THE NAABIK'YATI' COMMITTEE;
APPROVING AND SUPPORTING THE STATE OF UTAH HOUSE BILL 30,
UTAH INDIAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT**

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyati' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered the Naabik'iyati' Committee to coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700(A), 701(A) (6).
- B. There is no resource that is more vital to the continued existence and integrity of the Navajo Nation than its own children; and
- C. American Indian tribes have existed since time immemorial and pre-date the United States Constitution. Since the founding of the United States, there is well-documented history of genocide, diminishment, and attempted assimilation of Indians by the United States, both on the federal and state levels, including but not limited to, the removal of Navajo children from their homes and placed into foster care and adoption; and
- D. The United States Congress enacted the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in 1978, to combat the excess removal of Navajo children from their homes. ICWA acknowledges that, “an alarmingly high percentage of Indian [and Navajo] families are broken up by removal” and children are taken, “from [homes] by nontribal public and private

1 agencies... This separation of Indian [and Navajo] children from their families, is
2 perhaps the most tragic and destructive aspect of American Indian [and Navajo] life
3 today.”; and

4 E. ICWA improved child welfare systems all over the United States for American Indian
5 [and Navajo] children and is the “gold standard” in child welfare policy and practice.
6 ICWA creates procedural and substantive protections to help the Navajo Nation and
7 Navajo families combat the loss of identity occurring because of governmental policies
8 that facilitated the removal of Navajo children from their homes; and

9 F. The Navajo Nation worked with the established tribal working group to review and
10 discuss the Utah Indian Family Preservation Act (UIFPA), House Bill 30, that seeks to
11 align child welfare practices in the State of Utah with the principles and requirements
12 of the federal ICWA.

13 G. The UIFPA addresses critical gaps in existing child welfare practices in the State of
14 Utah and promotes the sovereignty of tribal nations by prioritizing tribal jurisdiction
15 and consultation in cases involving Indian [Navajo] children; and

16 H. The Navajo Nation supports the passage of UIFPA as a vital measure to protect the
17 rights of Indian [Navajo] children, uphold tribal sovereignty, and strengthen the
18 collaboration between the State of Utah’s child welfare agencies and tribal
19 governments.

20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

21 A. The Navajo Nation hereby supports the successful passage of House Bill 30, the UIFPA
22 attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, during the 2025 Utah State Legislative Session; and

23 B. The Navajo Nation urges all State of Utah legislators to support House Bill 30 and
24 ensure its implementation to protect the well-being and cultural identity of our Navajo
25 children and families in the State of Utah; and

26 C. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council,
27 President of the Navajo Nation, and their designees, to advocate the Navajo Nation’s
28 support of the UIFPA.