THE NAVAJO NATION LEGISLATIVE BRANCH INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: <u>0008-25</u>

SPONSOR: Crystalyne Curley

<u>TITLE: Relating to and Emergency for the Navajo Nation Council; Respectfully</u> <u>Requesting the Governor of New Mexico, Michelle Lujan Grisham, to Select a</u> <u>Navajo Nation Citizen to Replace the Vacant Position in New Mexico's House</u> <u>District 6</u> <u>Date posted:</u> January 28, 2025 at 11:35 AM.

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

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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.

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

DATE: January 27, 2025

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO, MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, TO SELECT A NAVAJO NATION CITIZEN TO REPLACE THE VACANT POSITION IN NEW MEXICO'S HOUSE DISTRICT 6

PURPOSE: The purpose of this proposed resolution is to request New Mexico Governor appoint a Navajo Nation citizen to serve in the vacant position in New Mexico's House District 6.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Navajo Nation Council VOTE REQUIREMENT: 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.

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION 25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—THIRD YEAR, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Primary Sponsor

TRACKING NO. <u>0008-25</u> RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO,

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, TO SELECT A NAVAJO NATION CITIZEN TO REPLACE THE VACANT POSITION IN NEW MEXICO'S HOUSE DISTRICT 6

WHEREAS:

A. The Navajo Nation Council is established as the governing body of the Navajo Nation.
2 N.N.C. § 102(A).

B. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the State of New Mexico.

C. "[M]atters constituting an emergency shall be limited to the cessation of law enforcement services, and disaster relief services, fire protection services or other direct services required as an entitlement under Navajo Nation or Federal law, or which directly threaten the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation. Such an emergency matter must arise due to the pressing public need for such resolution(s) and must be a matter requiring final action by the Council." 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(16).

D. This is offered as an emergency as it impacts Navajo sovereignty since it addresses the need for the Governor of New Mexico to make a temporary appointment in New Mexico's District 6 until an election can be held.

- E. The New Mexico House District 6 seat is vacant as a result of Representative Eliseo Alcon's resignation due to health concerns.
- F. The Navajo Nation requests the appointment of a Navajo Nation citizen to serve in the vacant seat in New Mexico's House District 6 in the New Mexico Legislature. District 6 is home to a significant population of Navajo citizens, and it is crucial that their voices are adequately represented in our state government.
- G. The Navajo Nation has long been a vibrant and integral part of New Mexico. It is imperative that the person chosen to represent District 6 understands the unique needs and challenges faced by the Navajo people, particularly in areas such as healthcare, education, economic development, and land management.
- H. The appointment would send a powerful message of representation and strengthen the relationship between state government and the Navajo Nation, fostering greater cooperation on critical issues affecting both the state and tribal communities.
- I. We trust that you will give thoughtful consideration to this recommendation and select a candidate who will serve the residents of District 6 with dedication, integrity, and a deep understanding of their needs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. The Navajo Nation hereby respectfully requests that Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham select a citizen of the Navajo Nation to fill the House District 6 vacancy.
- B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, President of the Navajo Nation, and their designees, to advocate for the appointment of a citizen of the Navajo Nation to serve in the House District 6 vacancy.