

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0021-19

DATE: January 31, 2019

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION, REAFFIRMATION, AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF NABIN-70-18 TITLED "AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES VETERAN AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A VETERANS HOSPITAL AND CREATE PERSONNEL POSITIONS TO ADDRESS HOUSING AND BENEFITS ON THE NAVAJO NATION FOR NAVAJO NATION VETERANS"

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to reaffirm and possibly amend NABIN-70-18.

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.

1 departments of the United States government. *See* 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A),
2 701 (A)(7)(8) (2015); *See also* CO-45-12.

3 C. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the United
4 States of America, Treaty of 1868, Aug. 12, 1868, 15 Stat. 667.

5 D. The Naabik'íyáti Committee of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council passed NABIN-69-18
6 titled "AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN
7 SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RESPECTFULLY
8 REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES VETERAN AFFAIRS
9 ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A VETERANS HOSPITAL AND CREATE
10 PERSONNEL POSITIONS TO ADDRESS HOUSING AND BENEFITS ON THE
11 NAVAJO NATION FOR NAVAJO NATION VETERANS" and is attached hereto
12 as **Exhibit A**.

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14 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

15 A. The 24th Navajo Nation Council hereby reaffirms NABIN-70-18 as passed by the 23rd
16 Navajo Nation Council.

17 B. The Navajo Nation through the 24th Navajo Nation Council respectfully requests the
18 United States Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans hospital and
19 personnel positions to address housing and other veteran benefits on the Navajo Nation
20 for Navajo veterans through NABIN-70-18 and this resolution.

21 C. The Navajo Nation through the 24th Navajo Nation Council hereby authorizes the Navajo
22 Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker, Navajo Washington Office and their
23 designees, to advocate for this request.
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NABIN-70-18

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE

23rd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2018

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES VETERANS AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A VETERANS HOSPITAL AND CREATE PERSONNEL POSITIONS TO ADDRESS HOUSING AND BENEFITS ON THE NAVAJO NATION FOR NAVAJO NATION VETERANS

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Health, Education and Human Services Committee (EHSC) as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered EHSC to review and recommend resolutions regarding veterans and/or veteran services. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 400 (A), 401 (B)(6)(a) (2012). See also CO-45-12.
- B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'iyáti' Committee to coordinate with all committees, Chapters, branches and entities concerned with all Navajo appearances and testimony before Congressional committees and departments of the United States government. See 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A), 701 (A)(8) (2015); See also CO-45-12.
- C. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the United States of America, Treaty of 1868, Aug. 12, 1868, 15 Stat. 667.
- D. Historically, Native Americans served in the military at a higher rate than any other ethnic group. U.S. Gov'T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, HEALTH CARE ACCESS: IMPROVED OVERSIGHT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PRIORITIZATION CAN IMPROVE ACCESS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS 1 (2014).
- E. Currently, there are over 128,000 living Native American veterans with approximately 10,000 from the Navajo Nation. See U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates: 2011-2015 American Community Survey American Indian and Alaska Native Tables.

- F. Native American veterans have provided invaluable service and allegiance to the United States of America and bring great honor to their tribal communities.
- G. Within the last 5 years, reports of excessive, and sometimes deadly, waiting times for veterans seeking government healthcare came to light, and President Obama promised accountability. Scott Bronstein & Tom Cohen, *Obama: Shinseki stays for now, but VA misconduct will be punished*, CNN (May 23, 2014) available at www.cnn.com.
- H. In 2010, tribal leaders and representatives offered comments on the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and Indian Health Service (IHS) 2010 Memorandum of Understanding and other health related issues. One comment recorded showed that IHS understood the native culture, languages, and background; however, IHS did not understand the specific needs of Native veterans like the VA, i.e. post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: 2012 TRIBAL CONSULTATION REPORT 11 (2012).
- I. There is currently no United States Veteran Affairs office or services on the Navajo Nation. This requires Navajo veterans to travel off reservation to seek veteran services. The Navajo Nation has established a Veterans Administration through appropriations from the Navajo Nation General Fund; however, assistance through the Navajo Veterans Administration is limited to housing and financial assistance.
- J. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to request the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a veteran's hospital and create personnel positions to address housing and other benefits on the Navajo Nation to meet the needs of the Navajo veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. The Navajo Nation respectfully requests the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a veteran's hospital and create personnel positions to address housing and other benefits on the Navajo Nation to meet the needs of the Navajo veterans.
- B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker, Navajo Washington Office and their designees to advocate for this request.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 10 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 09th day of November 2018.

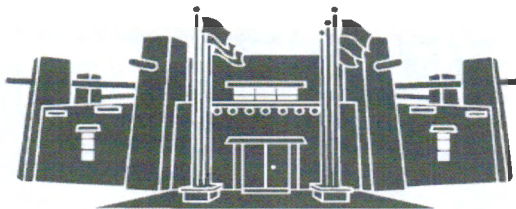


LoRenzo C. Bates, Chairman
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

Motioned: Honorable Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Second : Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

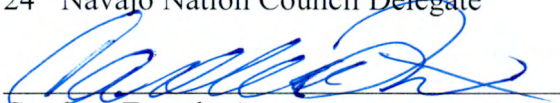
Chairman LoRenzo C. Bates not voting

Pursuant to § 700 (D), A quorum of the committee shall be satisfied by the presence of two (2) members of each Standing Committee or a majority of delegates of the Navajo Nation Council.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate

FROM: 
Candace French, Attorney
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: January 31, 2019

RE: AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION, REAFFIRMATION, AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF NABIN-70-18 TITLED "AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES VETERAN AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A VETERANS HOSPITAL AND CREATE PERSONNEL POSITIONS TO ADDRESS HOUSING AND BENEFITS ON THE NAVAJO NATION FOR NAVAJO NATION VETERANS"

Per your request, attached is the above-reference proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet. Based on existing law, the resolution drafted is legally sufficient. However, as with all legislation, the proposed resolution is subject to review by the courts in the event of a challenge.

The Office of Legislative Counsel recommends the appropriate standing committee(s) reviews based on the standing committees powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§ 301, 401, 501, 601, and 701. Nevertheless, "the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council shall introduce [the proposed resolution] into the legislative process by assigning it to the respective oversight committee(s) of the Navajo Nation Council having authority over the matters for proper consideration. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(5).

Please review the proposed resolution to ensure it is drafted to your satisfaction. If you approve, please sign as "Primary Sponsor" and submit it to the Office of Legislative Services where the proposed resolution will be given a tracking number and referred to the Office of the Speaker. If the proposed legislation is unacceptable to you, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of the changes you would like to make to the proposed resolution.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0021-19_____ SPONSOR: Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

TITLE: An Action relating to Health, Education and Human Services Committee, and Naabik'iyati' Committee; For the purpose of Discussion, Reaffirmation, and Possible Amendment of NABIN-70-18 Titled "An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services and Naabik'iyati' committees; Respectfully requesting the United States Veteran Affairs Administration to Establish a Veterans Hospital and Create Personnel Positions to Address Housing and Benefits on the Navajo Nation for Navajo Nation Veterans"

Date posted: February 6, 2019 at 4:40pm

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) 871-7590

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.*