

24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

Second Year 2020

Mr. Speaker:

The **BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE** to whom has been assigned

NAVAJO LEGISLATIVE BILL # 0225-20:

An Action Relating to Budget and Finance and Health, Education and Human Services; Amending the Plan of Operation for the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration *Sponsored by Pernell Halona, Council Delegate*

has had it under consideration and reports the same with the recommendation that It **Do Pass** with 3 amendments.

1. On page 2 of the legislation, lines 4, 8 and 10 make the following changes as indicated:
Exhibit 1A

On page 3 of Exhibit 2, remove overstrike on language in its entirety as indicated:

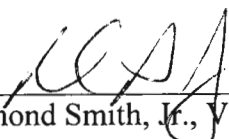
N. Consult with the Navajo Veterans Advisory Council on policy matters.

Amendment 1 Motion: Raymond Smith, Jr. Second: Elmer P. Begay Vote: 4-0 Yeas: Jimmy Yellowhair, Raymond Smith, Jr., Amber K. Crotty, Elmer P. Begay; Nathaniel Brown not voting

2. Insert new **Exhibit 2** in place of current **Exhibit 2** in the legislation.
Amendment 2 Motion: Amber K. Crotty Second: Jamie Henio Vote: 3-0 Yeas: Jamie Henio, Amber K. Crotty, Elmer P. Begay; Nathaniel Brown and Jimmy Yellowhair not voting
3. Strike the proposed Deputy Director and 5 agency supervisors positions from organization chart until known what the funding source to be
Amendment 3 Motion: Amber K. Crotty Second: Jimmy Yellowhair Vote: 5-0 Yeas: Jimmy Yellowhair, Jamie Henio, Amber K. Crotty, Nathaniel Brown, Elmer P. Begay

And, therefore referred to the **HEALTH, EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES** Committee

Respectfully submitted,



Raymond Smith, Jr., Vice Chairman

Adopted: 

Legislative Advisor

Not Adopted: _____
Legislative Advisor

6 OCTOBER 2020

The vote was **5** in favor **0** opposed *yeas: Jimmy Yellowhair, Jamie Henio, Amber K. Crotty, Nathaniel Brown, Elmer P. Begay*

Main Motion: Jimmy Yellowhair

Second: Elmer P. Begay

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

6 October 2020

Regular Meeting

VOTE TALLY SHEET:

Legislation No. 0225-20: An Action Relating to Budget and Finance and Health, Education and Human Services; Amending the Plan of Operation for the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration *Sponsored by Pernell Halona, Council Delegate*

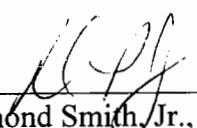
Motion: Jimmy Yellowhair

Second: Elmer P. Begay

Vote: 5-0, Vice Chairman not voting

Final Vote Tally:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|--|
| Jamie Henio | yea | |
| Jimmy Yellowhair | yea | |
| Raymond Smith Jr. | | |
| Elmer P. Begay | yea | |
| Amber K. Crotty | yea | |
| Nathaniel Brown | yea | |



Raymond Smith, Jr., Vice Chairman
Budget & Finance Committee



Peggy Nakai, Legislative Advisor
Budget & Finance Committee



Exhibit "A"

PLAN OF OPERATION FOR
NAVAJO NATION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

I. ESTABLISHMENT

The Navajo Nation Veterans Administration (NNVA) is established within the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation Government and as a Navajo Nation Administration within the Office of the President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation.

II. OBJECTIVES

The NNVA shall be responsible for carrying out the following objectives on behalf of Navajo Veterans:

- A. Advocate, prioritize, evaluate and provide administrative oversight and coordination for needed services and programs for Navajo Veterans in areas such as housing, education, healthcare, ~~and other specialized training; such as~~ provide support for legal, medical and small business development assistance and other related Veterans' benefits or programs.
- B. To seek accreditation for veterans' benefits and claims which are available pursuant to Title 38 U.S. Code and other benefits available from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and the Navajo Nation.
- C. ~~Identify, prioritize and advocate for program services to assist Veterans.~~
- D. To advocate for ~~the preferential treatment of~~ veterans preference in business and employment.
- E. ~~Evaluating and advocating for the needs of Veterans.~~

III. PURPOSES

The purposes of the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration (NNVA) shall be to:

- A. Seek Federal recognition under 38 C.F.R section 14.628 to prepare, present and ~~prosecute~~ follow through with claims for Veterans Administration (VA) benefits.
- B. Effectively and efficiently provide outreach, services and benefits to Navajo Veterans; and to identify the ~~exclusive and distinctive~~ unique needs of Navajo Veterans, their widow(er) and Gold Star Mothers.

C. ~~Seek additional funding, and make recommendations, and for the implementation, expansion, expand and improvement~~ of existing NNVA programs ~~of the NNVA, and Navajo Nation~~ divisions and offices ~~of the Navajo Nation~~ to ensure Navajo Veterans receive the benefits and services they are entitled to.

D. The extent permitted by federal, state and/or Navajo Nation law, the NNVA shall monitor and assess all Veterans' benefit programs made available to the Navajo Nation and its Veterans, which affect the unique ~~exclusive and distinctive~~ needs and interests of Navajo Veterans.

E. Recommend ~~overall~~ policies and legislation regarding Navajo Veterans to the Navajo Nation Council, ~~through the Navajo Nation Council Committees 's respective committees~~ and Navajo Chapter Veterans Organizations ~~communities that which consider and~~ are consistent with applicable Navajo Nation ~~governmental~~ laws and policies.

F. ~~Seek~~ Identify and improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare benefits, ~~health and~~ services for Navajo Veterans on the Navajo Nation.

G. Monitor, advocate and promote employment and educational benefits and training for Navajo Veterans, business preference, employment preference, and other services.

H. ~~Seek the Establishment and funding of the~~ Veterans' Housing Programs or services for Navajo Veterans ~~on within~~ the Navajo ~~Reservation-Nation~~. This may include seeking partnership(s) with local, tribal, state or federal housing entities to provide the best services available for housing.

I. Determine, implement and provide program services to address the critical ~~for the~~ needs and benefits ~~of for~~ Navajo Veterans pursuant to Navajo Nation budget appropriations, and ~~pursuant to~~ duly accepted and approved program funds received by the Navajo Nation on behalf of Navajo veterans.

J. Partner with the Office of the Controller-Credit Services to ~~in implementing~~ and maintaining a Navajo Veterans Loans Program in accordance with all applicable Navajo Nation Laws, and operating procedures and guidelines for the Navajo Veterans Loan Program, as approved by the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

K. ~~Recommend~~ Seek Navajo Nation, Federal, State and business-financial sources of the ~~appropriation of available~~ funds for ~~use by~~ the Navajo Veterans Loan Program.

L. ~~Advocate, improve, manage and administer~~ Manage by administering, advocating and improving the Carl T. Hayden-Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) Fee Reimbursement program for Traditional Navajo and Native American Healing Ceremonies.

M. To the extent permitted by ~~federal, state or~~ Navajo Nation, federal or state law, the NNVA shall assist Navajo Nation Chapters and Veterans ~~to in implementing~~ the Navajo Nation Local Governance Act of 1998.

N. ~~Consult with the Navajo Veterans Advisory Council on policy matters.~~

IV. ORGANIZATION

A. The NNVA shall be responsible for the administration, operations and ~~logistics~~ management of the NNVA under within the Office of President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation.

B. The NNVA shall ~~have~~ establish a central administrative office located near Window Rock, Arizona and ~~have~~ shall establish sub-office across the Navajo ~~Reservation Nation~~ Nation ~~which may include satellite areas of the Navajo Nation.~~

C. The NNVA organizational chart ~~for the NNVA~~ is attached as "Exhibit A" ~~herein~~.

V. PERSONNEL

A. ~~The NNVA shall be supervised by a Executive Director who shall be selected and contracted by the President of the Navajo Nation in consultation with the Navajo Veterans Advisory Council.~~ The NNVA shall be supervised by an Executive Director who shall be selected by the President of the Navajo Nation in consultation with the Navajo Veterans Advisory Council and retained by contract for a term of six (6) years.

B. The NNVA's staff shall be selected, employed, supervised and terminated by the Executive Director, pursuant to and in accordance with the Navajo Nation Personnel Policies Manual and ~~all other~~ related Navajo Nation laws, regulations and benefits applicable available to executive Navajo Nation employees of the Navajo Nation under the Office of the President and Vice President.

VI AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The responsibilities of the Executive Director shall be to:

1. Administer the operations and management of the NNVA, including the supervision of NNVA personnel and contractors. ~~Supervise personnel and administer the operations of the NNVA.~~

2. In the absence of the Executive Director the next senior personnel or next delegated personnel on the organizational structure shall assume ~~all~~ delegated duties and responsibility of the Executive Director to ensure continuity of NNVA operations and management, accountability, responsibility and communication.

3. Report on a quarterly basis or ~~from time to time to~~ and as requested, to the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, the Navajo Nation Council and legislative oversight committee on the status of the NNVA projects and work undertaken to provide support and assistance to Navajo veterans.
4. Create a Veterans ~~registry~~ census program that to ensure an accurate and periodic Veterans population count, to include demographics on housing, employment, healthcare, education, and other relevant information to support the NNVA's work to support and assist Navajo veterans.
5. ~~Pursue and recommending necessary budget proposals and related budgets for professional and/or technical assistance positions and services, as needed, to carry out the duties and responsibilities set forth herein objectives and purpose of the NNVA.~~ Pursue and recommending necessary budget proposals and related budgets for professional and/or technical assistance positions and services, as needed, to carry out the ~~duties and responsibilities set forth herein~~ objectives and purpose of the NNVA.
6. Implement, administer and enforce the following, but not limited to:
 - a. ~~Recommending and provideing~~ Recommending and providing coordination for the implementation of authorized federal, state and tribal program for the benefit of Veterans pursuant to ~~all applicable~~ Navajo Nation, State, or Federal laws, rules and regulations.
 - b. ~~Serving as a liaison to seek and~~ Identify additional state, federal and tribal financial resources to supplement and provide the maximum return for Navajo Nation general funds and private matching funds.
 - c. ~~Recommend,ing the negotiate,tion and~~ advocate for Navajo Nation, federal and state funding appropriations of to be used available funds to use for Veterans services and programs administered by the NNVA.
 - d. Manage ~~monetary~~ Navajo veterans' financial assistance programs, including the Veterans Trust Fund, and/or services to ~~all~~ eligible Veterans, Widow(er)s and Gold Star Mothers pursuant to ~~duty~~ approved programs, policies, and procedures.
 - e. ~~Developeing, recommending, and implementing~~ Developing, recommending, and implementing policies and procedures for the administration of all programs for veterans under the NNVA.
 - f. To provide administrative support and technical assistance to the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council.
7. Direct, manage and operate the Navajo Nation Veterans administration pursuant to the NNVA Plan of Operations.

VII. LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

A. ~~The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council shall exercise legislative oversight for the operation of the NNVA shall be provided by the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.~~

B. ~~In consultation with the~~ The Navajo Nation Council's Health, Education and Human Services Committee, ~~and the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council~~ shall provide jointly exercise legislative oversight ~~to~~ of the NNVA- Veterans Loan Program.

VIII. AMENDMENTS

This Plan of Operations may be amended ~~periodically~~ as needs arise with approval by the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.