

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

Tracking No. 0279-20

**DATE:** November 6, 2020

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; OVERRIDING THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT'S VETO OF NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION CO-83-20**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this resolution is for the Naabik'iyati' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council to override the Navajo Nation President's veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution CO-83-20.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson  
Website Posting Time/Date: 5:17pm 11-6-20  
Posting End Date: 11-11-20  
Eligible for Action: 11-12-20

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
2 24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – SECOND YEAR, 2020

3 INTRODUCED BY

4   
5 \_\_\_\_\_  
6 OTTETSU  
(Sponsor)

7  
8 TRACKING NO. 0279-20

9  
10 AN ACTION  
11 RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION  
12 COUNCIL; OVERRIDING THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT'S VETO OF  
13 NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION CO-83-20

14  
15 BE IT ENACTED:

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17 SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- 18 A. The Navajo Nation Council enacts laws of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102.  
19 B. All resolutions enacting new law or amending existing laws are subject to veto by  
20 the President of the Navajo Nation pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005(C)(10) and (11) and  
21 override by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(17).  
22 C. Resolutions vetoed by the President of the Navajo Nation are subject to override "by  
23 two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of the Navajo Nation Council." 2 N.N.C. §  
24 1005 (C) (11).  
25 D. A vetoed resolution shall first be submitted to Naabik'iyáti' Committee before  
26 consideration by the Council. 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(17).

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28 SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- 29 A. Council Resolution CO-83-20 was passed by the Navajo Nation Council and certified  
30 on October 26, 2020. The resolution is entitled, "An Act Relating to Law and Order, Budget

1 and Finance, Naabik'iyati' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Navajo  
2 Nation Code 12 N.N.C. §820(N) Appropriations Lapse.” **Exhibit 1.**

3 B. The Navajo Nation President vetoed Resolution CO-83-20 on November 5, 2020 and  
4 provided a memorandum explaining his veto decision. **Exhibit 2.**

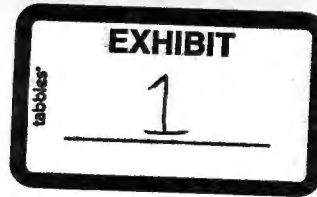
5 C. The Navajo Nation Council does not agree with the President’s veto of Resolution CO-  
6 83-20 and continues to believe in the need for Resolution CO-83-20.

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8 **SECTION THREE. OVERRIDING VETO**

9 The Navajo Nation Council hereby overrides the Navajo Nation President’s veto of  
10 Resolution CO-83-20 effective upon certification of the Speaker of the Navajo Nation  
11 Council.

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13 **SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE**

14 The effective date of this override shall be as provided for in 2 N.N.C. §221 (A) and (C).  
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RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - SECOND YEAR, 2020

AN ACT

RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER, BUDGET AND FINANCE, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING NAVAJO NATION CODE 12 N.N.C. § 820(N) APPROPRIATIONS LAPSE

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102 (A).
- B. The Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council reviews and makes recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council on proposed amendments to the Navajo Nation Code. 2 N.N.C. § 601(B)(14).
- C. The Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Nation Council shall exercise oversight authority, including but not limited to, budget, finance, investment, bonds, contracting, insurance, audits, accounting, taxes, loans, Chapter budget and finance, "[t]o coordinate, oversee, regulate the fiscal, financial, investment, contracting and audit policies of the Navajo Nation." 2 N.N.C. § 300 (C)(1).
- D. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council reviews proposed legislation which requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(9).
- E. The Navajo Nation Council must review and approve enactments or amendments of positive law. 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Navajo Nation anticipates declining revenues from the closure of the nearby power plant and coal mine, and along with a decline in other revenue sources, the Navajo Nation faces the prospect of a significant revenue shortfall. This revenue shortfall may lead to a reduction in services to the Navajo people and their communities.

- B. As a result of decreased revenues to the Navajo Nation, more efficient fiscal management is necessary to ensure the Nation can provide services at the current funding level.
- C. The Navajo Nation Code currently provides that appropriations by the Navajo Nation Council lapse, with the exception of appropriations to chapters of the Navajo Nation. 12 N.N.C § 820(N).
- D. Although the Navajo Code provides that appropriations lapse at the end of fiscal year, fund carryovers are routinely approved as part of the Navajo Nation comprehensive budget process.
- E. Prudent and efficient fiscal management requires funds appropriated by the Navajo Nation Council to be used throughout the fiscal year and that fund carryovers not be used as part of routine fiscal practice for central Navajo Nation divisions, departments, programs, and offices.

**SECTION THREE. AMENDMENTS TO 12 N.N.C. §§ 820 (N)**

The Navajo Nation hereby amends Title 12 of the Navajo Nation Code, as follows:

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**TITLE 12. FISCAL MATTERS  
CHAPTER 7. APPROPRIATIONS**

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**§ 820. Overall budget policies.**

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**§ 820(N) Appropriations Lapse.**

N. Appropriations Lapse. Appropriations approved by the Navajo Nation Council in the annual comprehensive budget resolution or in supplemental appropriations from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance will lapse at the end of the fiscal year. ~~unless otherwise designated by the Navajo Nation Council.~~ Appropriations to the Chapters of the Navajo Nation shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year provided that the Chapters shall budget those funds in the subsequent fiscal year in accordance with the purposes and conditions originally set forth by the Navajo Nation Council in its appropriations. This provision may be amended or waived only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full Navajo Nation Council.

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**SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE**

The Act enacted herein shall be effective beginning in FY 2022.

**SECTION FIVE. CODIFICATION**

The provisions of this ordinance which amend or adopt new sections of the Navajo Nation Code shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall incorporate such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.

**SECTION SIX. SAVING CLAUSE**

Should any provision of this Act be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, those portions of this Act, which are not determined invalid, shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 17 in Favor, and 05 Opposed, on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 2020.

  
Honorable Seth Damon, Speaker  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

10/26/2020

DATE

Motion: Honorable Mark A. Freeland

Second: Honorable Pernell Halona

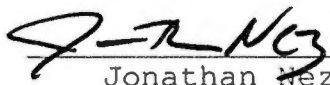

Speaker Seth Damon not voting

ACTION BY THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT:

1. I, hereby, sign into law the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(10), on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Nez, President  
Navajo Nation

2. I, hereby, veto the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(11), on this 05<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020 for the reason(s) expressed in the attached letter to the Speaker.

   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Nez, President  
Navajo Nation

NAVAJO NATION

541

Navajo Nation Council 2020 Fall Session

10/21/2020

08:14:38 PM

Amd# to Amd#	Legislation 0188-20: Amending
MOT Freeland, M	Navajo Nation Code 12 N.N.C. SS
SEC Halona, P	820(N) Appropriations Lapse

PASSED

Yeas : 17

Nays : 5

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 1

Yea : 17

Begay, P  
Charles-Newton  
Crotty  
Daniels  
Freeland, M

Halona, P  
Henio, J  
James, V  
Nez, R

Slater, C  
Stewart, W  
Tso  
Tso, C

Tso, D  
Tso, E  
Walker, T  
Yellowhair

Nay : 5

Begay, E  
Begay, K

Smith

Wauneka, E

Yazzie

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 1

Brown

Presiding Speaker: Damon



# THE NAVAJO NATION

EXHIBIT

tabbies  
2



JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

November 5, 2020

Hon. Seth Damon  
Office of the Speaker  
Post Office Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

RE: CO-83-20, *An Act Relating to Law and Order, Naabik'iyati' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Navajo Nation Code 12 N.N.C. § 820(N) Appropriations Lapse*


Dear Speaker Damon,


We agree with the proposition of a comprehensive overhaul of the Appropriations Act and not a piecemeal approach that has unintended consequences. Past recommendations called for one financial structure to include all financial services under one roof; however, the recommendation was shelved due to a lack of cooperation and collaboration from our financial programs. We welcome a discussion on development of a unified financial services structure.

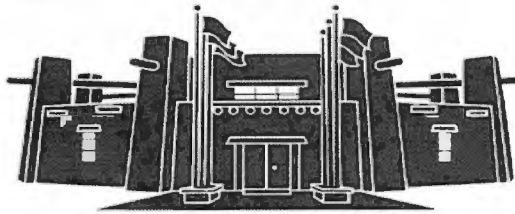
We have two primary concerns with CO-83-20. First, the amendment takes away the Council's option to approve a carryover of appropriated funds but puts that option back but under a different criterion. If the intent is to deny Branches, Divisions, Departments, Programs, and Offices an extension of their appropriated funds due to the future decrease in future revenues then by all means make that clear. Second, the amendment creates a higher bar for an important fiscal management tool used by all branches of Navajo government. Many times, supplemental appropriations are approved late in the year for services that extend into the next fiscal year or annual appropriations for government operations that cannot be completed in the fiscal year. The current budgetary process has the measures to approve or not approve requests for carryovers and the diligence of the Committees and Council, working with Programs, will continue to address the need without reactionary measures like CO-83-20.

We are open to a review of our financial programs and a plan to improve those services. CO-83-20 takes a small step; however, we can work together to create a comprehensive change that will improve financial services for the Navajo Nation that benefit the People, our employees, businesses, and federal partners. We do not support CO-83-20; however, look forward to working together with the Navajo Council on improving our financial structure.

Sincerely,

  
Jonathan Nez, President  
THE NAVAJO NATION

  
Myron Lizer, Vice President  
THE NAVAJO NATION



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO** : Honorable Otto Tso, Delegate  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

**FROM** : *Luralene D. Tapahe*  
Luralene D. Tapahe, Principle Advocate  
Office of Legislative Counsel

**DATE** : November 6, 2020

**SUBJECT** : **AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE  
AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; OVERRIDING THE  
NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT'S VETO OF NAVAJO NATION  
COUNCIL RESOLUTION CO-83-20**

As requested, I have prepared the above referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. The resolution drafted is legally sufficient. However, as with any legislation, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of a proper challenge. Also, please understand that the Speaker is authorized to refer this proposed resolution to other committees than those stated in the title.

You are advised and encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure it is drafted to your satisfaction. If you are satisfied with the proposed resolution, please sign it as "sponsor" and submit it to the Office of Legislative Services where it will be given a tracking number and sent to the Office of the Speaker for assignment.

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 made to the proposed resolution. Ahe'he'.

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0279-20\_

SPONSOR: Otto Tso

**TITLE: An Action Relating To NAABIK'IYATI' Committee And The Navajo Nation Council; Overriding The Navajo Nation President's Veto Of Navajo Nation Council Resolution CO-83-20**

***Date posted:*** November 6, 2020 at 5:17 PM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to [comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto: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.*

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

LEGISLATION NO.: 0279-20

SPONSOR: Honorable Otto Tso

TITLE: An Action Relating to Naabik'iyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution CO-83-20

Posted: November 6, 2020 at 5:17 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: November 11, 2020

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	<i>None</i>
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>
Comments/Recommendations	<i>None</i>



Legislative Tracking Secretary  
Office of Legislative Services

11/12/20 9:00AM

Date/Time

**24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE REPORT  
Second Year 2020**

The **NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE** to whom has been assigned:

**NAVAJO LEGISLATIVE BILL # 0279-20**

An Action Relating to Naabik'íyáti' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council; Overriding the Navajo Nation President's Veto of Navajo Nation Council Resolution CO-83-20

*Sponsored by: Honorable Otto Tso*

Has had it under consideration and reports the same that the legislation **WAS PASSED AND MOVES FORWARD TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL.**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
*Honorable Seth Damon, Chairman  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE*

**17 November 2020**

**MAIN MOTION**

*Motioned by: Honorable Daniel E. Tso*

*Seconded by: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton*

*Vote: 16 in Favor, 04 Opposed (Chairman Damon Not Voting)*

NAVAJO NATION

751

11/17/2020

Naa'bik'iyati' Committee Special Meeting

03:28:34 PM

Amd# to Amd#	Legislation 0279-20: Overriding	PASSED
MOT Tso, D	the Navajo Nation President's	
SEC Charles-Newton	Veto of Navajo Nation Council	
	Resolution CO-83-20.	

Yeas : 16

Nays : 4

Excused : 1

Not Voting : 3

Yea : 16

Begay, P	Freeland, M	Nez, R	Tso, E
Brown	Halona, P	Stewart, W	Tso, O
Charles-Newton	Henio, J	Tso, C	Wauneka, E
Daniels	James, V	Tso, D	Yellowhair

Nay : 4

Begay, E	Begay, K	Slater, C	Smith
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Excused : 1

Walker, T

Not Voting : 3

Crotty	Damon	Yazzie
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Presiding Speaker: Damon