

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0147-23

**DATE:** July 6, 2023

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACT RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING TITLE 2 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE TO CODIFY VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE BY COUNCIL DELEGATES AT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL SESSIONS

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this legislation is authorize Council Delegates to attend Council Sessions and Committee Meetings through virtual methods, i.e., audio or video teleconferencing platforms.

**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.**

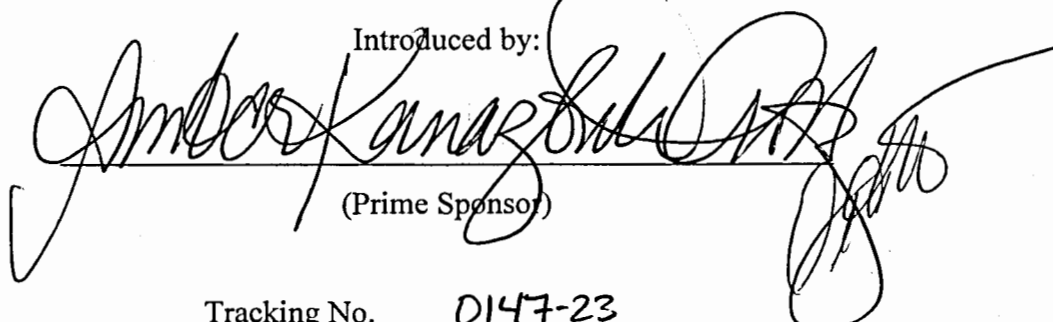
5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson  
Website Posting Time/Date: 9:35 PM / 07-06-23  
Posting End Date: 07-11-23  
Eligible for Action: 07-12-23

Law & Order Committee  
Thence  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee  
Thence  
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION

25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - First Year, 2023

Introduced by:

  
(Prime Sponsor)

Tracking No. 0147-23

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI'  
COMMITTEE, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING TITLE 2 OF  
THE NAVAJO NATION CODE TO CODIFY VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE BY  
COUNCIL DELEGATES AT STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND NAVAJO  
NATION COUNCIL SESSIONS

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Law and Order Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the responsibility to with the responsibility to review and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council on proposed amendments to and enactments to the Navajo Nation Code. 2 N.N.C. §§ 600 and 601 (B)(14).
- B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the responsibility to review legislation requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(9); 2 N.N.C. §701(A)(3).
- C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation with the authority to review and approve amendments to Navajo Nation laws. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102(A) and 164(A).

## SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. In the 2020, the Navajo Nation was forced to quickly enact emergency measures to mitigate the deadly spread of the Coronavirus pandemic which has caused 84,206 positive COVID-19 cases and 2,162 COVID-19 related deaths, to date, on the Navajo Nation. These emergency measures included the enactment of the March 11, 2020 Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation and underlying Public Health Orders including, but not limited to, employees working from home, the shutting down of government offices and non-essential business, public gathering limits, mask mandates, closing boarders to visitors and enacting curfews.
- B. To ensure that the Navajo Nation's governing body could continue to operate and respond to the Coronavirus pandemic without violating Public Health Orders, including stay-at-home orders and public gathering limits, the Navajo Nation Council enacted CMA-04-20, attached as **Exhibit A**, which temporarily allowed Council Delegates to conduct and attend Council sessions, standing committee meetings, and subcommittee meetings using telecommunication methods, such as teleconference calls and video conferencing.
- C. In 2021 and 2022, the Navajo Nation slowly began to open up government offices. Meeting and conducting the business of the Nation was done in person with certain limitations and safeguards in place, especially after the COVID-19 vaccine became available. The Council, standing committees, and subcommittees moved to hybrid-style meetings, allowing virtual attendance by delegates, presenters, government officials and the public.
- D. Council Delegates were provided a unique opportunity to use virtual meetings, which moved to hybrid in-person and virtual meetings, to continue the necessary and important work of the Nation. The use of virtual meetings was not only effective, but provided more opportunities for Delegates to advocate for their communities at Council and Standing Committees, as well as to provide enhanced transparency to the public.
- E. On June 15, 2023, Dr. Buu Nygren, President of the Navajo Nation and the Commission on Emergency Management issued CEM-23-06-15, attached as **Exhibit**

1 B, deactivating the March 11, 2020 Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo  
2 Nation and returning government operations to pre-COVID-19 status.

- 3 F. The Navajo Nation finds it in the best interest of the Navajo Nation and the Diné  
4 People to amend Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code to allow Council Delegates to  
5 continue virtual attendance at Council sessions, standing committee meetings, and  
6 subcommittee meetings.

7  
8 **SECTION THREE. AMENDING TITLE 2 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE**

9 The Navajo Nation hereby amends Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code, as follows:

10

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11  
12 **TITLE 2. NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT**

13 **CHAPTER 3. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

14  
15 **SUBCHAPTER 2. NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL MEETINGS**

16 \* \* \* \*

17 **§ 106. Compensation of Council Delegates**

- 18 A. Delegates shall be compensated by an annual salary of twenty-five thousand dollars  
19 (\$25,000) per year. All Council Delegates shall be paid bi-weekly. A salary increase  
20 may be approved by the Navajo Nation Council but shall not become effective unless  
21 ratified by two-thirds (2/3) of all Navajo Nation Chapters within one hundred twenty  
22 (120) days of approval by the Navajo Nation Council. The provisions of this Section  
23 shall not apply to mileage payments, per diem payments, deferred compensation  
24 benefits, or any other payments or benefits which are separate from the bi-weekly base  
25 salary established in this Section.

- 26 B. Delegates attending a Navajo Nation Council meeting or their respective committee  
27 meetings, either in person or virtually, may receive sixty dollars (\$60.00) per diem for  
28 each day official business is conducted, ~~and mileage reimbursement for use of a~~  
29 ~~private vehicle at the rate established in the Navajo Nation Travel Policy and~~  
30 ~~Procedures Handbook, and amendments thereto.~~

1 C. Chairpersons of standing ~~C~~committees may receive as compensation, for extra time  
2 spent by the Chairperson beyond meetings to execute committee business, a payment  
3 of eighty dollars (\$80.00) per diem for each committee meeting day.

4 ~~D.C.~~ For every week of a Regular sSession of the Navajo Nation Council and per day for  
5 any Special Session, delegates attending in person shall be paid mileage equal to one  
6 round trip to Window Rock from their residence ~~and return, according to the official~~  
7 ~~mileage chart of the Controller~~ at the rate established in the Navajo Nation Travel  
8 Policy and Procedures Handbook, as amended. Mileage shall not be paid for virtual  
9 attendance.

10 D. For each complete committee meeting, delegates of to the Navajo Nation Council,  
11 who attend the meeting in person, shall be paid mileage equal to one round trip to  
12 Window Rock, from their residence ~~and return, according to the official mileage chart~~  
13 ~~of the Controller~~ at the rate established in the Navajo Nation Travel Policy and  
14 Procedures Handbook, as amended. Mileage shall not be paid for virtual attendance..

15 ~~EF.~~ ~~Full p~~Per diem shall be paid only for in person or virtual attendance of at least three  
16 hours of meeting or until all agenda items are concluded. Mileage shall be paid only  
17 for in-person attendance of at least three hours of meeting or until all agenda items are  
18 concluded.

19 ~~FG.~~ Delegates, or their beneficiary in the event of death, are paid a deferred compensation  
20 benefit when they leave office.

21 \* \* \* \*

22 **§ 110. Definitions**

23 \* \* \* \*

24 Y. Virtual Attendance means that a person is not physically present at a meeting, but is  
25 still able to participate in the meeting, in a manner similar to those physically present,  
26 by means of an audio and/or video conferencing platform.

27 Z. Virtual means remote access through an audio or video conferencing platform.

28 \* \* \* \*

29 **§ 161. Place**

1 A. All ~~regularly scheduled or~~ Regular and sSpecial sSessions of the Navajo Nation  
2 Council shall be held at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber located at Window Rock,  
3 Navajo Nation (Arizona) with the following exceptions:

- 4 1. If the Chambers in Window Rock are unsuitable for meeting, because of fire,  
5 physical damage, remodeling or other cause, the Speaker may designate an  
6 alternate meeting place in Window Rock, and if an alternate site is selected, the  
7 Speaker shall give reasonable prior notice to all Council Delegates.
- 8 2. Notwithstanding any alternate site selection by the Speaker, Aa simple  
9 majority of all Council Delegates may agree to hold a Council meeting ~~in some~~  
10 at a location in Window Rock other than the Council Chambers. Such  
11 agreement may be by written petition or by motion at any regular or special  
12 session of the Navajo Nation Council.

13 \* \* \* \*

14 **§167. Failure to attend**

15 ~~All~~ Each sitting delegates ~~to~~ of the Navajo Nation Council shall attend, either in person or  
16 virtually, all regular and special meetings of the Navajo Nation Council or Committees.,  
17 unless the delegate's participation is excused by the Speaker or Committee Chairperson,  
18 respectively. If any delegate is absent from sixty percent (60%) or more of the ~~meeting~~  
19 days Council Sessions and/or standing committee meetings within a one-year period, the  
20 Navajo Nation Council may consider a motion to censure said delegate. If his/her absence  
21 continues after such censure, the Navajo Nation Council shall have the authority to declare  
22 the delegate's seat forfeited and vacant.

23 \* \* \* \*

24 **§ 183. Meetings; quorum**

25 A. All Regular and Special meetings of the Navajo Nation Council standing committees,  
26 subcommittees, and ~~or~~ commissions shall be held in Window Rock, Navajo Nation,  
27 (Arizona). Such meetings may be held elsewhere within the Navajo Nation if  
28 sufficient funds are available, and the meeting is approved, in writing, by the Speaker  
29 of the Navajo Nation Council.

1 B. No standing committee, subcommittee, or commission meetings shall be held outside  
2 the Navajo Nation unless the meeting is with a legislative body of another sovereign,  
3 sufficient funds are available, and the meeting is approved, in writing, by the Speaker  
4 of the Navajo Nation Council.

5 C. For a meeting to be deemed to have been held, each of the following acts shall occur:  
6 (1) a quorum is present; (2) an agenda is adopted; (3) substantive actions (approval,  
7 disapproval or table (voting or tabling) are taken; and (4) per diem and roundtrip  
8 mileage, as applicable, are paid to committee members or commissioners.

9 D. Meetings shall not mean work sessions, workshops, orientations, trainings, and  
10 business meetings with Navajo or non-Navajo entities, therefore, and no meeting per  
11 diem payment, as set forth in 2 N.N.C. § 106, for work sessions, workshops, etc. shall  
12 be paid for participation in such gatherings. See 2 N.N.C. § 106. Meetings held  
13 elsewhere within the Navajo Nation shall be with written permission of the Speaker of the  
14 Navajo Nation Council, provided that funds are available. No Meetings shall be held  
15 outside the Navajo Nation unless by written permission of the Speaker of the Navajo  
16 Nation Council, provided that funds are available; and further provided that the  
17 meeting is with a legislative body of another sovereign.

18 \* \* \* \*

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20  
21 **SECTION FOUR. AMENDING RULE 22 OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**  
22 **RULES OF ORDER**

23 The Navajo Nation Council hereby amends the Navajo Nation Council Rules of Order as  
24 follows:

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 **Rule 22. Vote**

27 \* \* \* \*

28 D. For those delegates attending the Council Session in person, the recording of yeas  
29 and nays votes on all motions shall be done electronically. For those delegates  
30 attending the Council Session through a virtual method, the recording of yeas and nays

1 votes on all motions shall be done by the delegate's verbal statement during the  
2 Session or via a dedicated text or email. All votes through virtual methods shall be  
3 announced on the record.

4 \* \* \* \*

5 E. Voting by proxy ~~or by any method by or on behalf of any delegate who is not~~  
6 ~~physically present in the Council Chambers shall not be valid or permitted~~ is  
7 prohibited and any such vote shall be invalid.

8  
9 **SECTION FIVE. AMENDING RULE 21 OF THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**  
10 **STANDING COMMITTEE RULES OF ORDER**

11 The Navajo Nation Council hereby amends the Standing Committee Rules of Order as  
12 follows:

13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 **Rule 21. Vote**

15 \* \* \* \*

16 B. The recording of votes for, opposed, and abstentions on all motions shall be done by a  
17 showing of hands by all delegates attending in person except that. Votes of delegates  
18 attending virtually shall be recorded by the delegate's verbal pronouncement or via a  
19 dedicated text or email. All votes through virtual methods shall be announced on the  
20 record. ~~a~~Abstention votes are not counted towards the votes for or opposed, but entered  
21 for the record only.

22 \* \* \* \*

23 D. Voting by proxy ~~or by any method by or on behalf of any delegate who is not~~  
24 ~~physically present in the meeting place shall not be valid or permitted~~ is prohibited and  
25 any such vote shall be invalid.

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27  
28 **SECTION SIX. CODIFICATION**

29 The provisions of this resolution that amend or adopt new sections of the Navajo Nation Code  
30 shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall



1 incorporate such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.

2  
3 **SECTION SEVEN. SAVING CLAUSE**

4 If any portion of this Act is determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court or by a  
5 District Court of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, the  
6 remainder of this Act shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.

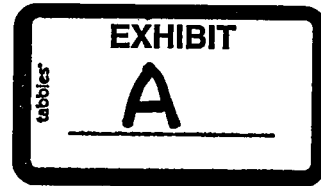
7  
8 **SECTION EIGHT. EFFECTIVE DATE**

9 The provisions of this Act shall become effective according to 2 N.N.C. §221(B).

10  
11 **SECTION NINE. DIRECTIVE**

12 The Naabik'íyáti' Committee Title Two Reform Subcommittee shall review the  
13 implementation of virtual attendance by delegates at Council sessions and Committee  
14 meetings as a priority; and report any recommended amendments to the Navajo Nation Code  
15 or Rules of Order to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee at least thirty (30) days before the start of  
16 the regular Fall Session.

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - SECOND YEAR, 2020



AN ACTION

RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY; AMENDING CMA-04-20 TO EXTEND THE AUTHORIZATION FOR NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT MEETINGS AND WORKSESSIONS THROUGH TELECOMMUNICATION METHODS AND FOR COUNCIL DELEGATES TO ATTEND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS, SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS AND WORKSESSIONS THROUGH TELECONFERENCING

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 Navajo Nation Council shall have all powers to regulate the conduct of its members and have the authority to promulgate rules, regulations and procedures for the conduct of its meetings and that of its committees. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102 (D) and (E).
- C. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §164 (A) (16): "[m]atters constituting an emergency shall be limited to the cessation of law enforcement services, 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."
- D. It is vital to the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation that its governing body be able to meet during the COVID-19 pandemic to protect the continuation of direct services to the Navajo people.

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. COVID-19 is a dangerous and extremely contagious respiratory virus. The virus is pandemic and has reached the Navajo Nation. COVID-19 is spreading at an alarming rate within the Navajo Nation; as of May 25, 2020, the Navajo Nation has reported 4,794 cases of COVID-19 and 157 related deaths.

- B. The World Health Organization declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020; the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency related to the COVID-19 outbreak on January 31, 2020; and the World Health Organization officially declared a pandemic due to COVID-19 on March 11, 2020.
- C. On March 11, 2020, the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management, with the concurrence of the Navajo Nation President and Vice-President, declared a Public Health State of Emergency on the Navajo Nation due to the presence of COVID-19 in areas surrounding the Navajo Nation. Resolution No. CEM 20-03-11 is attached as **Exhibit 1**. The President and Commission have issued other Public Health Emergency Orders, including: Order No. 2020-001 dated March 18, 2020 (declaring the outbreak of COVID-19 and limiting mass gatherings); Order No. 2020-002 dated March 19, 2020 (quarantining the Chilchinbeto Community); Order No. 2020-003 dated March 20, 2020 (ordering individuals living on the Navajo Nation to stay home and shelter in place except for essential activities, prohibiting visitors to the Navajo Nation, and closing all businesses on the Navajo Nation except essential businesses); Order No. 2020-004 dated March 29, 2020 (implementing a daily curfew from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. for all Navajo Nation residents, extending the shelter in place order, and further limiting public gatherings); Order No. 2020-005 dated April 5, 2020 (implementing a 57-hour weekend curfew on April 10-13); Order No. 2020-006 dated April 16, 2020 (extending the weekend curfew for April 17-20 and April 24-27, and closing Navajo Nation essential businesses during curfew hours); Order No. 2020-007 (requiring face masks in public); and Order No. 2020-008 dated April 29, 2020 (extending the weekend curfew to May 11 ). The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice-President issued Executive Order 002-20 on March 31, 2020 (closing all Navajo Nation offices except essential personnel through April 21); and Executive Order 003-20 on April 21, 2020 (extending the closure order to May 17, 2020).
- D. On March 5, 2020, in an effort to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council advised the Legislative Branch to consider attending meetings / events / training by using telecommunication methods such as teleconference calls and videoing instead of in-person attendance. **Exhibit 2**.
- E. On March 12, 2020, the Speaker implemented travel restrictions on Legislative Branch employees and required Legislative

Branch programs to develop Remote Work Plans for their departments. **Exhibit 3.**

- F. On March 16, 2020, the Navajo Nation Council passed Resolution No. CMA-04-20, attached as **Exhibit 4**, authorizing the Navajo Nation Council Delegates to attend Council Sessions and Standing Committee meetings, including subcommittee meetings, telephonically for sixty days.
- G. On March 18, 2020, the Speaker issued a memorandum, attached as **Exhibit 5**, closed public access to Legislative Branch offices and initiated remote working procedures for all employees.
- H. On May 13, 2020, the Speaker issued a memorandum, attached as **Exhibit 6**, continuing the closure of the Legislative Branch until further notice.
- I. To prevent and reduce the transmission of COVID-19, the Navajo Nation Council finds that it is in the best interest of the Navajo public and Navajo Nation officials and employees to continue to temporarily allow Navajo Nation Council Delegates to conduct and attend Council and Standing Committee meetings and subcommittee meetings using telecommunication methods, such as teleconference calls and video conferencing, in certain situations.

### SECTION THREE. AMENDING CMA-04-20

The Navajo Nation Council hereby amends Section Five, Paragraph B, of CMA-04-20, **Exhibit 4**, as follows:

- B. The provisions of the Act shall expire ~~sixty (60) days after Speaker's 2 N.N.C. S 221 (A) certification~~ when the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management rescinds its March 11, 2020, declaration of the Public Health State of Emergency, unless otherwise determined through resolution of the Naabik'iyáti' Committee.

### SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE

The provisions of this Act shall become effective when certified by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council pursuant to 2 N.N.C. S 221 (A).

**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 14 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020.



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

May 29, 2020  
DATE

Motion: Honorable Edison J. Wauneka

Second: Honorable Mark A. Freeland

Speaker Seth Damon not voting

# THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



CEM-20-03-11

## RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION DUE TO THE CONFIRMATION OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE ("COVID-19") IN REGIONAL AREAS SURROUNDING THE NAVAJO NATION.

### WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 881 the Navajo Nation Council established the Commission on Emergency Management, authorizing it to assess, verify, recommend and declare states of emergency with the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation; and
2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 883 (A) and (C) the Commission is empowered to coordinate immediate emergency and disaster relief services with Navajo Nation and non-tribal entities in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management to recommend and deploy appropriate resources regarding natural and man-made emergencies; and
3. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 884 (B), (2) the Commission on Emergency Management may seek assistance from federal, state, other tribal governments, and local and private agencies to address emergency and disaster related situations; and
4. The nature of the Coronavirus Disease ("COVID-19") is such that it has spread and increased globally, as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention ("CDC"), the World Health Organization ("WHO"), and other public health organizations within the U.S. and regionally; and
5. In the U.S. the number of positive and presumptive positive cases have grown, with the rise in COVID-19 confirmed cases in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado; and
6. No confirmed COVID-19 cases have been verified on the Navajo Nation and area Public Health Services are closely monitoring the situation; and
7. The Navajo Nation, in collaboration with various entities such as the U.S. Public Health Services Area Offices (Albuquerque, Navajo, Phoenix), CDC, state departments of health, Navajo Nation 638 Tribal Health Organizations and various other multi-agency groups, have organized an incident command approach to mitigate COVID-19 transmission on the Navajo Nation; and
8. In partial response to addressing the spread of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation, a Navajo Department of Health ("NDOH") Command Operations Center has been established with an infrastructure to maintain situational awareness, conduct daily communication briefings among NDOH and key collaborative partners and, disseminate information to the public; and

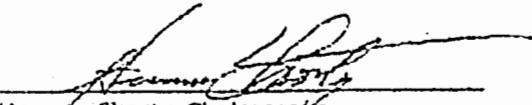
9. The Navajo Department of Emergency Management (NDEM) Emergency Operation Center (EOC) shall be activated to support the Navajo Department of Health Command Center.
10. Locally, it is acknowledged and understood that the threat of transmission of COVID-19 needs to be mitigated to reduce risk of exposure to the Navajo People and the resultant consequential public health impacts.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management hereby declares a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation due to the confirmation of the Coronavirus Disease ("COVID-19") in regional areas surrounding the Navajo Nation.
2. To address increased concerns of potential public health impacts due to risk and exposure to the COVID-19, especially to our older population, the Navajo Nation must encourage independent responsibility and action by the Navajo People in practicing recommended preemptive measures to minimize, prevent and reduce risk of exposure to and from the COVID-19.
3. The Navajo Nation population receives timely, consistent and correct information needed on the COVID-19 on preventive measures against contracting and spread of the virus, signs, symptoms and contacting local hospitals and clinics for reporting.
4. In declaring the Public Health State of Emergency, all Navajo Nation Branches, programs, departments will comply with and adhere to directives, instructions, and/or policies forthcoming from the Navajo Department of Health as related to addressing COVID-19.
5. The needs of the Navajo Nation are to be addressed in a manner so as to provide the necessary resources required to address said Declared Public Health State of Emergency. This includes, but not limited to, resources of personnel, medical supplies and equipment, monetary funding, and other resources as may be required to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens of the Navajo Nation.

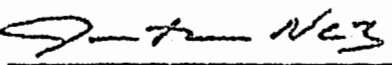
**CERTIFICATION**

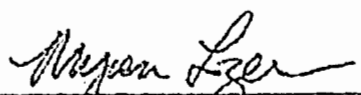
I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that same passed by a vote of 4 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

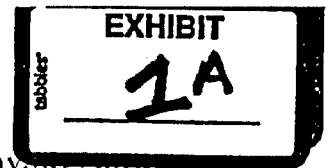
  
Herman Shorty, Chairperson  
Commission on Emergency Management

Motion by: Dicky Bain  
Second by: Ben Bennett

**CONCURRENCE:**

  
Jonathan Nez, President  
THE NAVAJO NATION

  
Myron Lizer, Vice President  
THE NAVAJO NATION



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 11, 2020

**Navajo Nation declares Public Health  
State of Emergency for COVID-19 coronavirus**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Wednesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer declared a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation in response to the growing spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, also known as "Diko Nitsaaiigh-Nahast'èits'áadah" in the Navajo language. There are no confirmed cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus on the Navajo Nation, however the declaration is a proactive measure to help ensure the Navajo Nation's preparedness and the health and well-being of the Navajo people.

At the request of President Nez and Vice President Lizer, the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management held a meeting on Wednesday to consider the growing concerns related to the COVID-19 coronavirus. The commission voted 4-0 in support of the declaration.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer also issued travel restrictions on Wednesday for all Executive Branch employees, which requires all divisions, departments, and programs to restrict all off-Nation work-related travel until further notice. They also directed employees who recently traveled to "hot spots," or areas known to have confirmed cases of the virus, to self-quarantine for approximately 14 days. All Executive Branch offices are either cancelling or postponing conferences, summits, and events that draw large numbers of people from off the Navajo Nation.

"For several weeks, we've been planning and preparing while we monitor the growing spread of the virus. We have a large population of Navajo people that reside in many states including Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado, which now have confirmed cases, so it's very important that we remain proactive and continue to provide outreach and information to the public. We don't want to create a sense of panic, but we want our Navajo people to plan and prepare in the event that the virus reaches our communities," said President Nez.

On Feb. 27, President Nez and Vice President Lizer established the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Preparedness Team to monitor, plan, prepare, and coordinate precautionary efforts to address the COVID-19 coronavirus. A Health Command Operations Center is also established within the Department of Health, which is made up of five function areas including Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration.



President Nez and Vice President Lizer sent letters to members of Congress and the White House to ensure that Indian Health Service facilities and other hospitals receive financial support and resources from the recent \$8.3 billion appropriations by Congress and President Trump to fight the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. In late February, President Nez also sent a letter to Indian Health Service requesting a mandatory 45-day quarantine for IHS commissioned officers that are deployed to high-risk areas and return to the Navajo Nation. IHS notified President Nez that they are complying with President Nez's request to ensure the well-being of IHS commissioned officers before returning them to service on the Nation.

As another proactive measure, the Division of Human Resources is also tasked with finalizing an "alternative work schedule" and a "tele work policy" for Navajo Nation employees. In addition, the Community Health Representatives program and the Health Education Program are going door-to-door to educate and inform Navajo individuals with underlying conditions, including heart, lung, kidney disease, diabetes, and conditions that suppress the immune system. They also provide information and presentations at chapters, schools, and various worksites.

"Our command center officials and health professionals are doing everything they can to inform the public and to provide as much education as possible, but it's also up to us as individuals to do our part to prevent the spread of the virus in our communities. Please continue to check on your elders to ensure their well-being and to take precautionary measures to reduce risks," said Vice President Lizer. "With many students on spring break, it's imperative that parents keep their children safe by practicing good hygiene to prevent exposure to the virus."

Symptoms of the COVID-19 coronavirus include mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and shortness of breath. It can take up to 14 days for the virus to become active after exposure. Currently, there is no vaccine available for the virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The public is encouraged to take the following precautionary actions to help prevent the spread of the virus:

- Washing your hands with warm water and soap often for at least 20 seconds
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Staying home if you are sick
- Avoiding contact with people with sicknesses/symptoms
- Cleaning/sanitizing common areas and "high-touch" surfaces
- Avoiding large gatherings and crowds

The coronavirus has the potential to become severe. Severe cases can also lead to pneumonia, kidney failure, and in some cases, death. The most vulnerable are the elders, young children, and those with compromised immune systems. Health care officials also advise that if a person has shortness of breath or has difficulty breathing, to report to your local physician and/or emergency room hospital and to call ahead to allow the facility to prepare for your arrival.

"Our Navajo people are strong and resilient. In times like this, we need to remember the challenges that our elders overcame. We will continue to pray for the safety and well-being for all people as we continue to be proactive. We will persevere through this," added President Nez.

A list of established hotlines for the public to call with questions or concerns includes:

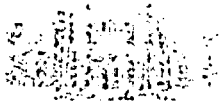
- Navajo Nation Health Command Operations Center: (928) 871-7014
- Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Service Unit: 1 (800) 242-9271
- Gallup Indian Medical Center Service Unit: (505) 726-5886
- Tséhootsoo Medical Center: 1 (800) 232-4342
- Winslow Indian Health Care Center: (928) 289-8143
- Sage Memorial Hospital: (928) 755-4500
- Tuba City Regional Health Care: (928) 283-2501

The Navajo Nation COVID-19 Preparedness Team will hold its third radio forum on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. on KTNN 660AM and 101.5FM to provide information and receive questions. The Navajo Nation Department of Health is offering to provide presentations to communities and other groups. Please send requests by email to [coronavirusinfo@nndoh.org](mailto:coronavirusinfo@nndoh.org) or visit their website for additional information: <http://www.nndoh.navajo-nation.gov/COVID-19>.

The Navajo Nation COVID-19 Preparedness Team will continue to coordinate with the county, state, and federal officials to monitor the evolving impacts of the coronavirus and continue to encourage the public to take precautions.

# # #

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nation.gov>, or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER



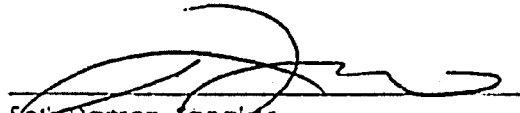
HONORABLE SETH DAMON

*Speaker, 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Navajo Nation Legislative Branch

FROM:

  
Seth Damon, Speaker  
24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

DATE: March 5, 2020

SUBJECT: NAVAJO NATION TRAVEL ADVISORY – COVID-19

This memorandum serves as a travel advisory to the Navajo Nation Legislative Branch. Continuity of government operations is vital as we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situations. In doing so due diligence will be required when deciding to go on travel for official business. When approving official travel, risk factors must be considered in order to maintain the overall health and safety of the Navajo Nation. At this time, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation.

In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, we ask the Legislative Branch seriously consider the following:

- Attending meetings/events/training by using teleconference calls/videos, rather than traveling off the Navajo Nation.
- Staying home or working from home, if you experience symptoms such as fever, coughing, shortness of breath, or difficulty of breathing.
- Avoiding direct contact with people who have symptoms/sickness
- Cleaning/sanitizing your workplace/office routinely

If you have shortness of breath or have difficulty breathing, please report to your local physician and/or emergency room.

The Legislative Branch is working with the Executive and Judicial Branches on monitoring the COVID-19 situation and will provide updates as needed. For the latest update on the COVID-19, please visit the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Senior Policy Advisor Asa Washines at (928) 871-7160. Thank you.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Office of the Speaker • Post Office Box 3390 • Window Rock, Arizona 86515 • Ph: (928) 871-7160 • Fax: (928) 871-7255



24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

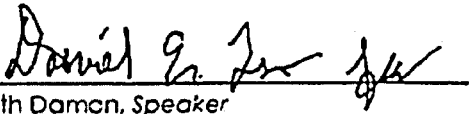


HONORABLE SETH DAMON

*Speaker, 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Navajo Nation Legislative Branch

FROM:   
Seth Damon, Speaker  
24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

DATE: March 12, 2020

SUBJECT: Navajo Nation Council and Legislative Branch Travel Restrictions and Remote Work Plan Directive

This memorandum shall serve as notification of restrictions on Navajo Nation Council and Legislative Branch program travel as a preemptive measure towards mitigating the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Travel for official Legislative Branch business is hereby restricted to on-reservation destinations effective immediately. This restriction will affect all members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, political appointees, and all program employees.

All members of the Legislative Branch returning from cities that report active cases of COVID-19 are expected to closely self-monitor their bodies for elevated temperatures and flu-like symptoms. We would like to remind all council delegates and employees that the normal body temperature for adults is generally 98.6°F. We advise anyone returning from COVID-19 hot zones to avoid contact with elders and to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days on evidence of coronavirus symptoms.

While we understand the importance of engaging in-person with agency and program partners at the local, state, and federal levels, we are confident this preemptive measure is in the greater health interests of all Legislative Branch employees and the Navajo Nation as a whole.

In addition to this restriction on travel, I am directing all program managers to begin developing a remote work plan (RWP) for their respective departments. The RWP will be

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instrumental to the continuation of essential Legislative Branch services in the event that closing Legislative Branch program offices becomes necessary to protect public health. Preliminary draft RWP's will be due by the close-of-business on Friday, March 13, 2020.

During this restriction, Office of the Speaker Information Technology (IT) staff will be able to assist programs with tele- and videoconferencing setup. They will also be available to facilitate Microsoft Sharepoint access to enable online collaboration for programs, should the need arise.

Your compliance with this notice and the directive (for program managers) is expected and appreciated in the interest of reducing the overall likelihood of exposure to COVID-19. This restriction will remain in place until further notice. Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis if and only if travel is not to a locale with reported cases and if a suitable alternative means of communication does not exist for the official business being conducted.

Please call or email Chief of Staff LaShawna Tso if you have questions regarding this memorandum at (928) 871-7160 or [Ltso@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:Ltso@navajo-nsn.gov). Thank you.

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

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CMA-04-20

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - SECOND YEAR, 2020

AN ACTION

RELATING TO AN EMERGENCY; AUTHORIZING NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT MEETINGS AND WORKSESSIONS THROUGH TELECOMMUNICATION METHODS; AUTHORIZING COUNCIL DELEGATES TO ATTEND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS, SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS AND WORKSESSIONS THROUGH TELECONFERENCING; APPROVING A SIXTY (60) DAY WAIVER OF TITLE TWO PROVISIONS REQUIRING DELEGATES TO BE PHYSICALLY PRESENT AT MEETINGS

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 Navajo Nation shall have all powers to regulate the conduct of its members and have the authority to promulgate rules, regulations and procedures for the conduct of its meetings and that of its committees. 2 N.N.C. §§ 102 (D) and (E).
- C. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §164 (A)(16) "[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."

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. In light of the Navajo Nation's Emergency Declaration, attached as Exhibit A, regarding the outbreak of the COVID-19 Coronavirus, it is imperative that the Navajo Nation Council take precautionary measures to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 to the Navajo public and Navajo Nation employees.
- B. COVID-19 which has shown a high mortality rate (49% in critical cases) among elders with preexisting conditions is currently spreading in the states surrounding the Navajo Nation; the Navajo Nation's health care capacity to respond COVID-19 will

be threatened if preventive measures and precautions are not implemented. Exhibit B.

- C. To mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council has advised the Legislative Branch to consider attending meetings/events/training by using telecommunication methods such as teleconference calls and videoing instead of in-person attendance. Exhibit C.
- D. The Speaker has already implemented travel restrictions on Legislative Branch employees and required Legislative Branch programs to develop Remote Work Plans for their departments. Exhibit D.
- E. To prevent and reduce the transmission of COVID-19, the Navajo Nation Council finds that it is in the best interest of the Navajo public and Navajo Nation employees to temporarily allow Navajo Nation Council Delegates to conduct and attend Council and Standing Committee meetings and subcommittee meetings using telecommunication methods, such as teleconference calls and video conferencing, in certain situations.

### SECTION THREE. WAIVING PROVISIONS OF 2 N.N.C. §§ 106, 167, 183, and 189 and NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RULES OF ORDER AND STANDING COMMITTEE RULES

- A. The Navajo Nation Council waives provisions of 2 N.N.C. §§ 106, 167, 183 and 189, Rule 22 (F) of the Navajo Nation Council Rules of Order, and Rule 21 (D) of the Standing Committee Rules of Order that would restrict or prohibit Council Delegates from conducting and attending Council and Standing Committee meetings, subcommittee meetings, and work sessions through telecommunication methods, such as teleconference calls and video conferencing.
- B. The waivers set forth above shall expire sixty (60) days after Speaker's 2 N.N.C. § 221 certification of this legislation, unless otherwise determined through resolution of the Naabik'iyáti' Committee.

### SECTION FOUR. APPROVAL OF ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS BY TELECOMMUNICATION METHODS

- A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby approves and allows Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee meetings, subcommittee meetings and work sessions to be conducted through telecommunication methods such as teleconference calls and video conferencing.

- B. The Navajo Nation Council hereby approves and allows Navajo Nation Council Delegates to attend Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee meetings, subcommittee meetings and work sessions through telecommunication methods such as teleconference calls and video conferencing.
- C. Council Delegates compensation for attendance at Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee meetings, subcommittee meetings and work sessions conducted through telecommunication methods shall be the same as for in-person attendance, except that no mileage or other travel expenses shall be paid or reimbursed for telecommunication attendance.
- D. Council Delegates attendance at Navajo Nation Council and Standing Committee meetings, subcommittee meetings and work sessions through telecommunication methods shall count the same towards quorum requirements as in-person attendance,
- E. Navajo Nation Council meetings through telecommunication methods shall be conducted pursuant to procedures instituted by the Speaker pursuant to his authorities set forth at Rule 4 (C) of the Navajo Nation Council Rules of Order.
- F. Navajo Nation Standing Committee meetings through telecommunication methods shall be conducted pursuant to procedures instituted by the Chairperson of the respective Committee pursuant to their authorities set forth at Rule 4 (D) of the Navajo Nation Council Standing Committee Rules of Order.
- G. Plans for Navajo Nation commission and board meetings through telecommunication methods shall be approved by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee.

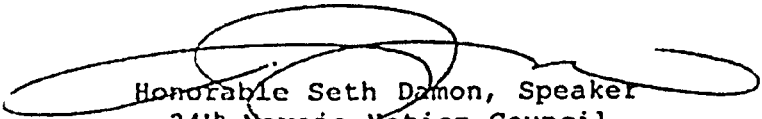
#### SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE

- A. The provisions of this Act shall become effective when certified by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221 (A).
- B. The provisions of this Act shall expire sixty (60) days after Speaker's 2 N.N.C. § 221 (A) certification, unless otherwise determined through resolution of the Naabik'iyáti' Committee.



**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 19 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.



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

3.16.2020

DATE

Motion: Honorable Wilson Stewart, Jr.  
Second: Honorable Pernell Halona

Speaker Seth Damon not voting



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director  
(928) 271-4275

Crystalyn Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer  
(928) 271-4258

[navajocommunications@navajonation.gov](mailto:navajocommunications@navajonation.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 11, 2020

**Navajo Nation declares Public Health  
State of Emergency for COVID-19 coronavirus**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Wednesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer declared a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation in response to the growing spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, also known as "Diko Htsaaghi-Náhas't'eits'áadah" in the Navajo language. There are no confirmed cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus on the Navajo Nation, however the declaration is a proactive measure to help ensure the Navajo Nation's preparedness and the health and well-being of the Navajo people.

At the request of President Nez and Vice President Lizer, the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management held a meeting on Wednesday to consider the growing concerns related to the COVID-19 coronavirus. The commission voted 4-0 in support of the declaration.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer also issued travel restrictions on Wednesday for all Executive Branch employees, which requires all divisions, departments, and programs to restrict all off-Nation work-related travel until further notice. They also directed employees who recently traveled to "hot spots," or areas known to have confirmed cases of the virus, to self-quarantine for approximately 14 days. All Executive Branch offices are either canceling or postponing conferences, summits, and events that draw large numbers of people from off the Navajo Nation.

"For several weeks, we've been planning and preparing while we monitor the growing spread of the virus. We have a large population of Navajo people that reside in many states including Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado, which now have confirmed cases, so it's very important that we remain proactive and continue to provide outreach and information to the public. We don't want to create a sense of panic, but we want our Navajo people to plan and prepare in the event that the virus reaches our communities," said President Nez.

On Feb. 27, President Nez and Vice President Lizer established the Navajo Nation COVID 19 Preparedness Team to monitor, plan, prepare, and coordinate precautionary efforts to address the COVID-19 coronavirus. A Health Command Operations Center is also established within the Department of Health, which is made up of five function areas including Command, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer sent letters to members of Congress and the White House to ensure that Indian Health Service facilities and other hospitals receive financial support and resources from the recent \$8.3 billion appropriations by Congress and President Trump to fight the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. In late February, President Nez also sent a letter to Indian Health Service requesting a mandatory 45-day quarantine for IHS commissioned officers that are deployed to high-risk areas and return to the Navajo Nation. IHS notified President Nez that they are complying with President Nez's request to ensure the well-being of IHS commissioned officers before returning them to service on the Nation.

As another proactive measure, the Division of Human Resources is also tasked with finalizing an "alternative work schedule" and a "tele-work policy" for Navajo Nation employees. In addition, the Community Health Representatives program and the Health Education Program are going door-to-door to educate and inform Navajo individuals with underlying conditions, including heart, lung, kidney disease, diabetes, and conditions that suppress the immune system. They also provide information and presentations at chapters, schools, and various worksites.

"Our command center officials and health professionals are doing everything they can to inform the public and to provide as much education as possible, but it's also up to us as individuals to do our part to prevent the spread of the virus in our communities. Please continue to check on your elders to ensure their well-being and to take precautionary measures to reduce risks," said Vice President Lizer. "With many students on spring break, it's imperative that parents keep their children safe by practicing good hygiene to prevent exposure to the virus."

Symptoms of the COVID-19 coronavirus include mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and shortness of breath. It can take up to 14 days for the virus to become active after exposure. Currently, there is no vaccine available for the virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The public is encouraged to take the following precautionary actions to help prevent the spread of the virus:

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The coronavirus has the potential to become severe. Severe cases can also lead to pneumonia, kidney failure, and in some cases, death. The most vulnerable are the elders, young children, and those with compromised immune systems. Health care officials also advise that if a person has shortness of breath or has difficulty breathing, to report to your local physician and/or emergency room hospital and to call ahead to allow the facility to prepare for your arrival.

"Our Navajo people are strong and resilient. In times like this, we need to remember the challenges that our elders overcame. We will continue to pray for the safety and well-being for all people as we continue to be proactive. We will persevere through this," added President Nez.

A list of established hotlines for the public to call with questions or concerns includes:

- Navajo Nation Health Command Operations Center: (928) 871-7014
- Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Service Unit: 1 (800) 242-9271
- Gallup Indian Medical Center Service Unit: (505) 726-5886
- Tsehootsoo Medical Center: 1 (800) 232-4342
- Winslow Indian Health Care Center: (928) 289-8143
- Sage Memorial Hospital: (928) 755-4500
- Tuba City Regional Health Care: (928) 283-2501

The Navajo Nation COVID-19 Preparedness Team will hold its third radio forum on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. on KTNB 660AM and 101.5FM to provide information and receive questions. The Navajo Nation Department of Health is offering to provide presentations to communities and other groups. Please send requests by email to [coronavirus.info@nndoh.org](mailto:coronavirus.info@nndoh.org) or visit their website for additional information: <http://www.ndoh.navajo-nation.gov/COVID-19>.

The Navajo Nation COVID-19 Preparedness Team will continue to coordinate with the county, state, and federal officials to monitor the evolving impacts of the coronavirus and continue to encourage the public to take precautions.

###

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvd.navajo-nation.gov>, or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

# THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



CEM-20-03-11

## RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION DUE TO THE CONFIRMATION OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE ("COVID-19") IN REGIONAL AREAS SURROUNDING THE NAVAJO NATION.

### WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 881 the Navajo Nation Council established the Commission on Emergency Management, authorizing it to assess, verify, recommend and declare states of emergency with the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation; and
2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 883 (A) and (C) the Commission is empowered to coordinate immediate emergency and disaster relief services with Navajo Nation and non-tribal entities in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management to recommend and deploy appropriate resources regarding natural and man-made emergencies; and
3. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 884 (B), (2) the Commission on Emergency Management may seek assistance from federal, state, other tribal governments, and local and private agencies to address emergency and disaster related situations; and
4. The nature of the Coronavirus Disease ("COVID-19") is such that it has spread and increased globally, as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention ("CDC"), the World Health Organization ("WHO"), and other public health organizations within the U.S. and regionally; and
5. In the U.S. the number of positive and presumptive positive cases have grown, with the rise in COVID-19 confirmed cases in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado; and
6. No confirmed COVID-19 cases have been verified on the Navajo Nation and area Public Health Services are closely monitoring the situation; and
7. The Navajo Nation, in collaboration with various entities such as the U.S. Public Health Services Area Offices (Albuquerque, Navajo, Phoenix), CDC, state departments of health, Navajo Nation 63S Tribal Health Organizations and various other multi-agency groups, have organized an incident command approach to mitigate COVID-19 transmission on the Navajo Nation; and
8. In partial response to addressing the spread of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation, a Navajo Department of Health ("NDOH") Command Operations Center has been established with an infrastructure to maintain situational awareness, conduct daily communication briefings among NDOH and key collaborative partners and, disseminate information to the public; and

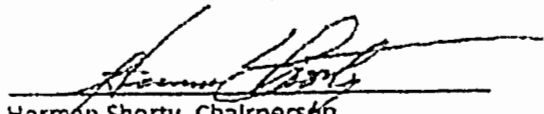
9. The Navajo Department of Emergency Management (NDEM) Emergency Operation Center (EOC) shall be activated to support the Navajo Department of Health Command Center.
10. Locally, it is acknowledged and understood that the threat of transmission of COVID-19 needs to be mitigated to reduce risk of exposure to the Navajo People and the resultant consequential public health impacts.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management hereby declares a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation due to the confirmation of the Coronavirus Disease ("COVID-19") in regional areas surrounding the Navajo Nation.
2. To address increased concerns of potential public health impacts due to risk and exposure to the COVID-19, especially to our older population, the Navajo Nation must encourage independent responsibility and action by the Navajo People in practicing recommended preemptive measures to minimize, prevent and reduce risk of exposure to and from the COVID-19.
3. The Navajo Nation population receives timely, consistent and correct information needed on the COVID-19 on preventive measures against contracting and spread of the virus, signs, symptoms and contacting local hospitals and clinics for reporting.
4. In declaring the Public Health State of Emergency, all Navajo Nation Branches, programs, departments will comply with and adhere to directives, instructions, and/or policies forthcoming from the Navajo Department of Health as related to addressing COVID-19.
5. The needs of the Navajo Nation are to be addressed in a manner so as to provide the necessary resources required to address said Declared Public Health State of Emergency. This includes, but not limited to, resources of personnel, medical supplies and equipment, monetary funding, and other resources as may be required to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens of the Navajo Nation.

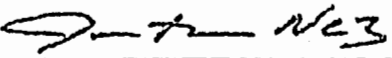
**CERTIFICATION**

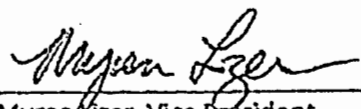
I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that same passed by a vote of 4 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

  
Herman Shorty, Chairperson  
Commission on Emergency Management

Motion by: Dicky Bain  
Second by: Ben Bennett

**CONCURRENCE:**

  
Jonathan Nez, President  
THE NAVAJO NATION


  
Myron Lizer, Vice President  
THE NAVAJO NATION

# THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

## MEMORANDUM

To: Navajo Nation Elected Leadership.  
Navajo Nation Employees  
Navajo Nation Tribal Citizens

FROM:   
David Nez, Incident Commander  
Health Command Operations Center

DATE: March 12, 2020

RE: Self Monitoring Advisory

EXHIBIT

B

RECEIVED  
MAR 12 2020  
OFFICE OF THE  
SPEAKER

On March 11, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer declared a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation in response to the growing spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (called "COVID-19" for short), also known as "Diko Ntsaaígíí-Náhást'éíts'áadah" in the Navajo language. There are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation; however, the declaration and the Navajo Department of Health – Health Command Operations Center (HCOC) is taking proactive measures to help ensure the Navajo Nation's preparedness and the health and well-being of the Navajo people.

COVID-19 is currently spreading in Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico, areas within or close proximity of the Navajo Nation. COVID-19 has shown a high mortality rate (49% among critical cases) among elders with preexisting conditions in other countries.<sup>1</sup> On Navajo, we have high rates of diabetes, hypertension, and other comorbid conditions among all ages. The spread of the COVID-19 possesses risks for healthcare workers, Navajo Nation citizens, particularly Navajo elders and individuals with underlying conditions, including heart disease, lung disease, cancer, kidney disease, diabetes, and conditions that suppress the immune system. The Navajo Nation's health care capacity to respond to COVID-19 is threatened if precautions are not considered.

The goal of the advisory is to prevent and reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in the community. Therefore, the HCOC is issuing the following self-monitoring advisory.

Navajo Nation citizens, employees, and elected officials, who recently returned from COVID-19 hotspot locations<sup>2</sup> are advised to take precautionary steps to control and prevent the growing spread of the virus. Due to the fact that COVID-19 is highly transmittable

<sup>1</sup> JAMA Network. Characteristics of and Important Lessons from the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak in China: Summary of a Report of 72 314 Cases from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/1762130>. Published February 24, 2020. Accessed March 12, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> A hotspot location follows the CDC Risk Assessment Levels from "limited community spread" which includes states with 1-5 reported cases to "widespread" which includes 200 or more reported cases.

among individuals with mild to severe symptoms and some with asymptomatic (with little or no symptoms) infection in communities across the US, individuals traveling to hotspots meet the definition of exposure to a communicable disease but not yet symptomatic (showing symptoms); therefore, we are mandating employees and elected officials stay home or self-monitor for a period of approximately (14) fourteen calendar days from the time they return to the Navajo Nation. The self-monitor advisory are precautionary measures to help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a contagious disease. The self-monitoring advisory will be no longer be in effect after 14 days if the individual is not showing symptoms of COVID-19.

Specifically, Navajo Nation employees, elected officials and citizens must obey the following guidelines, even if they believe they are not currently infected with COVID-19:

**Monitor yourself for COVID-19 symptoms:**

- If possible, take your temperature twice a day with a thermometer. A fever is typically a temperature of 100.4°F or higher. If you do not have a thermometer, symptoms of illness may include feeling unusually hot for no reason, having chills, or having the sweats.
- Watch for fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough and sneeze.
- Call your health care provider if symptoms worsen. Call ahead before you go to your doctor's office or an emergency room.

**Stay home except to get medical care:**

- **STAY HOME:** People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 can isolate at home during their illness. It would be best to restrict activities outside your house, except for getting medical care.
- **AVOID PUBLIC AREAS:** Do not go to work, school, or public areas (such as restaurants, grocery stores, chapter houses, senior centers, or basketball games).
- **AVOID PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:** Avoid using public transportation.
- **AVOID VULNERABLE POPULATIONS:** Avoid elders, children, and people who have a severe chronic medical condition, such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease.

**Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home:**

- **STAY AWAY FROM OTHERS:** As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.
- **LIMIT CONTACT WITH PETS, ANIMALS, & LIVESTOCK:** You should restrict contact with pets and other animals while you are sick with COVID-19, just like you would around other people. Although there have not been reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19, it is still recommended that people infected with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known about the virus.
- Have another family member care for your livestock while you are sick. Avoid petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food with pets. Wear a face mask to keep the virus from spreading and wash hands before and after if you interact with your livestock and pets.

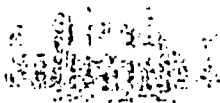


**Discontinuing self-isolation and self- quarantine:**

- **STAY AT HOME UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO LEAVE:** Patients with confirmed COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low.
- **TALK TO YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER:** The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local departments.

For more information regarding self-monitoring, please contact the Health Command Operations Center at (928) 871-7014 or visit <http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>.

Cc: File/Distribute  
Legislative Branch  
Judicial Branch



24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

EXHIBIT


C

HONORABLE SETH DAMON

*Speaker, 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Navajo Nation Legislative Branch

FROM:   
Seth Damon, Speaker  
24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

DATE: March 5, 2020

SUBJECT: NAVAJO NATION TRAVEL ADVISORY – COVID-19

This memorandum serves as a travel advisory to the Navajo Nation Legislative Branch. Continuity of government operations is vital as we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situations. In doing so due diligence will be required when deciding to go on travel for official business. When approving official travel, risk factors must be considered in order to maintain the overall health and safety of the Navajo Nation. At this time, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation.

In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, we ask the Legislative Branch seriously consider the following:

- Attending meetings/events/training by using teleconference calls/videos, rather than traveling off the Navajo Nation.
- Staying home or working from home, if you experience symptoms such as fever, coughing, shortness of breath, or difficulty of breathing.
- Avoiding direct contact with people who have symptoms/sickness
- Cleaning/sanitizing your workplace/office routinely

If you have shortness of breath or have difficulty breathing, please report to your local physician and/or emergency room.

The Legislative Branch is working with the Executive and Judicial Branches on monitoring the COVID-19 situation and will provide updates as needed. For the latest update on the COVID-19, please visit the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Senior Policy Advisor Asa Washines at (928) 871-7160. Thank you.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Office of the Speaker • Post Office Box 3390 • Window Rock, Arizona 86515 • Ph: (928) 871-7160 • Fax: (928) 871-7255



24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

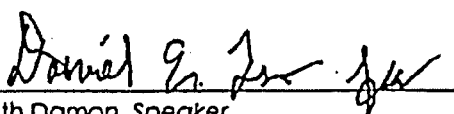


HONORABLE SETH DAMON

*Speaker, 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Navajo Nation Legislative Branch

FROM:   
Seth Damon, *Speaker*  
24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

DATE: March 12, 2020

SUBJECT: Navajo Nation Council and Legislative Branch Travel Restrictions and Remote Work Plan Directive

This memorandum shall serve as notification of restrictions on Navajo Nation Council and Legislative Branch program travel as a preemptive measure towards mitigating the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Travel for official Legislative Branch business is hereby restricted to on-reservation destinations effective immediately. This restriction will affect all members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, political appointees, and all program employees.

All members of the Legislative Branch returning from cities that report active cases of COVID-19 are expected to closely self-monitor their bodies for elevated temperatures and flu-like symptoms. We would like to remind all council delegates and employees that the normal body temperature for adults is generally 98.6°F. We advise anyone returning from COVID-19 hot zones to avoid contact with elders and to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days on evidence of coronavirus symptoms.

While we understand the importance of engaging in-person with agency and program partners at the local, state, and federal levels, we are confident this preemptive measure is in the greater health interests of all Legislative Branch employees and the Navajo Nation as a whole.

In addition to this restriction on travel, I am directing all program managers to begin developing a remote work plan (RWP) for their respective departments. The RWP will be

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instrumental to the continuation of essential Legislative Branch services in the event that closing Legislative Branch program offices becomes necessary to protect public health. Preliminary draft RWP's will be due by the close-of-business on Friday, March 13, 2020.

During this restriction, Office of the Speaker Information Technology (IT) staff will be able to assist programs with tele- and videoconferencing setup. They will also be available to facilitate Microsoft Sharepoint access to enable online collaboration for programs, should the need arise.

Your compliance with this notice and the directive (for program managers) is expected and appreciated in the interest of reducing the overall likelihood of exposure to COVID-19. This restriction will remain in place until further notice. Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis if and only if travel is not to a locale with reported cases and if a suitable alternative means of communication does not exist for the official business being conducted.

Please call or email Chief of Staff LaShawna Tso if you have questions regarding this memorandum at (928) 871-7160 or [lrts@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:lrts@navajo-nsn.gov). Thank you.

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## 24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

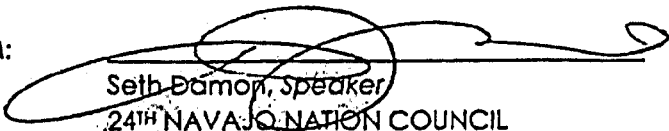
HONORABLE SETH DAMON

*Speaker, 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council*

### MEMORANDUM

TO: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

FROM:

  
Seth Damon, Speaker  
24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

DATE: MARCH 18, 2019

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH - CLOSURE

This memorandum serves as notification that there has been a reduction in services for all Legislative Branch programs. Programs under the Legislative Branch will be closed effective March 19, 2020 until further notice. Under the authority granted me under 2 N.N.C. §285(B)(2), all supervisors are directed to close public access to office buildings and to initiate remote working procedures for all employees. Notification will be provided when regular services will resume.

All regular and temporary employees shall be paid utilizing administrative leave with pay (Navajo Nation Personnel Policies Manual, X. LEAVE ADMINISTRATION, B. Paid Leave, 3. Administrative Leave).

Offices are to be closed and signs posted on all doors explaining that buildings are closed until further notice. Information pertaining to contact information will be posted on all entrances and voice messages are to be altered to reflect these changes.

This is a necessary measure to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). All legislative branch staff are highly encouraged to remain home and to reduce or eliminate personal travel unless vital and necessary.

Guidance on COVID-19 symptoms and cautionary information is available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

If employees feel they are experiencing flu or COVID-19 symptoms, we recommend calling ahead to a health care center before arriving on site at the facility.

### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

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For reference, the following is a list of contact numbers for local Navajo Nation health care facilities:

- Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Facility: (928) 674-7001/7688
- Crownpoint Health Care Facility: (505) 786-5291/6381
- Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board: (928) 729-8000
- Gallup Indian Medical Center: (505) 722-1000
- Sage Memorial Hospital: (928) 755-4500
- Kayenta Health Center: (928) 697-4000
- Northern Navajo Medical Center: (505) 368-6001
- Tuba City Regional Health Care Center: (866) 976-5941
- Utah Navajo Health System: (866) 976-5941
- Winslow Indian Health Care Center: (928) 289-4646
- New Mexico Coronavirus Hotline: (855) 600-3453

All questions and correspondence may be directed to Legislative Branch Chief of Staff LaShawna Tso at [ltso@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:ltso@navajo-nsn.gov) or (928) 871-7160.

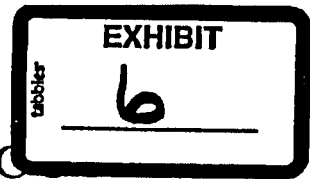
Cc: 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council  
Executive Branch  
Judicial Branch

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

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24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER



HONORABLE SETH DAMON  
*Speaker, 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council*

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

FROM:   
Seth Damon, Speaker  
24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

DATE: MAY 13, 2020

SUBJECT: **LEGISLATIVE BRANCH CONTINUANCE OF CLOSURE**

This memorandum serves as official notification that all Navajo Nation Legislative Branch programs are directed to continue operating under reduced services until further notice. This is a necessary measure to ensure the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

All Legislative Branch staff are highly encouraged to remain home and to reduce, or eliminate, personal travel unless vital and necessary.

Per 2 N.N.C. §285(B)(2), all Legislative Branch program directors are directed to:

1. Continue the closure of public access to program office building;
2. Continue executing remote work plans (RWPs) for all program staff.

Further, all regular and temporary employees shall be paid utilizing administrative leave with pay, see Navajo Nation Personnel Policies Manual, "Leave Administration" (B)(3) ([http://www.dpm.navajo-nsn.gov/ppm\\_secx.html](http://www.dpm.navajo-nsn.gov/ppm_secx.html)).

Offices are to remain closed and signs posted on all doors providing notice to the general public of closures until further notice under the Navajo Nation State of Emergency for COVID-19. This directive shall be considered a continuance of the ongoing reduction in services for Legislative Branch programs.

Additionally, please be advised that the Office of the Speaker will be issuing further guidance on recalling employees to work, or the Reintegration Plan. This will be guidance issued only when it is deemed safe for employees to work and certain steps are taken. More information will follow.

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

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Guidance on COVID-19 symptoms and cautionary information is available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). If employees feel they are experiencing flu or COVID-19 symptoms, we recommend calling ahead to a health care center before arriving on site at the facility.

For reference, the following is a list of contact numbers for local Navajo Nation health care facilities:

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# NAVAJO NATION

321

5/29/2020

Navajo Nation Council Special Session

09:40:50 AM

|                     |   |               |
|---------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>Amd# to Amd#</b> | <b>Legislation 0125-20: Relating to</b> | <b>PASSED</b> |
| MOT Wauneka, E      | an Emergency; Amending CMA-04-20        |               |
| SEC Freeland, M     | to Extend the Authorization for         |               |
|                     | NNC and Standing Committees..           |               |

**Yeas : 14**

**Nays : 0**

**Excused : 7**

**Not Voting : 2**

**Yea : 14**

Begay, E  
Begay, K  
Begay, P  
Freeland, M

Halona, P  
Henio, J  
Nez, R  
Slater, C

Smith  
Stewart, W  
Tso

Walker, T  
Wauneka, E  
Yellowhair

**Nay : 0**

**Excused : 7**

Brown  
Charles-Newton

Daniels  
James, V

Tso, C  
Tso, E

Yazzie

**Not Voting : 2**

Crotty

Tso, D

**Presiding Speaker: Damon**



CEM-23-06-15

**RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**DECLARING THE DEACTIVATION OF THE MARCH 11, 2020 PUBLIC HEALTH STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE NAVAJO NATION (CEM-20-03-11) DUE TO SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN TRENDS OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE ("COVID-19") ON THE NAVAJO NATION.**

**WHEREAS:**

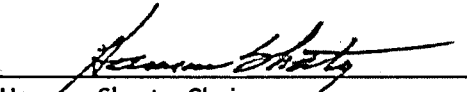
1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 881 the Navajo Nation Council established the Commission on Emergency Management, authorizing it to assess, verify, recommend and declare states of emergency with the concurrence of the President of the Navajo Nation; and
2. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 883 (A) and (C) the Commission is empowered to coordinate immediate emergency and disaster relief services with Navajo Nation and non-tribal entities in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management to recommend and deploy appropriate resources regarding natural and man-made emergencies; and
3. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C., § 884 (B), (2) the Commission on Emergency Management may seek assistance from federal, state, other tribal governments, and local and private agencies to address emergency and disaster related situations; and
4. On March 11, 2020, a public health state of emergency was declared for the Navajo Nation (CEM-20-03-11) due to extensive impacts and increase in laboratory test confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) disease which had spread locally, regionally, and globally; and
5. Current COVID-19 trends, derived through disease surveillance and reporting by the Navajo Nation Department of Health (NNDH) indicate the Navajo Nation is no longer in the critical, emergency pandemic stage compared to the height of the pandemic in 2020-2021, and with hospital bed occupancy and hospital admission rates now considered to be at low risk; and
6. On May 11, 2023, the federal Public Health Emergency for COVID-19, announced under Section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, expired in response to significantly declining trends in COVID-19 cases; and
7. During March 2023, the States of New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah also terminated, or allowed to expire, their respective emergency declarations related to COVID-19, citing that COVID-19 was no longer of severity and magnitude to continue emergency declarations; and
8. The Navajo Nation Department of Health is positioned to continue monitoring COVID-19, and has established partnerships with organizations such as the CDC, NAIHS, states departments of health, tribal health organizations, John Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health, and other partners, including maintaining a COVID-19 Team, to implement measures such as prevention and control strategies as on-going public health priorities; and
9. It is acknowledged that while COVID-19 is still a public health priority, the Navajo Nation has mitigation and prevention strategies in place, and the Navajo Nation will also align with nation-wide efforts to transition away from emergency phase and continue to build capacity by strengthening partnerships in addressing future infectious disease outbreaks.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management hereby declares the deactivation of the March 11, 2020 Public Health Emergency for the Navajo Nation (CEM-20-03-11) due to significant decreases in trends of the COVID-19 disease on the Navajo Nation.
2. Continue monitoring and examining the on-going public health needs of the Navajo Nation by better understanding and addressing health-related impacts such as providing health care, disabilities due to long COVID, mental health, and working to mitigate the impacts.
3. All Navajo Nation Branches, departments, programs, will continue to comply with and adhere to directives, instructions, and/or policies forthcoming from the Navajo Nation Department of Health as related to continuing efforts in addressing COVID.
4. Continue to address the needs of the Navajo Nation in a manner to provide the necessary resources to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Navajo Nation through acquisition of additional personnel, medical supplies, equipment, monetary funding, and other sources.
5. Maintain the momentum achieved in pandemic preparedness planning, and continue to utilize public education outreach to maintain public knowledge of risk and exposure to COVID-19, particularly for the Navajo Nation's vulnerable population (elderly and immunocompromised), encourage independent responsibility and action in practicing mitigation measures.

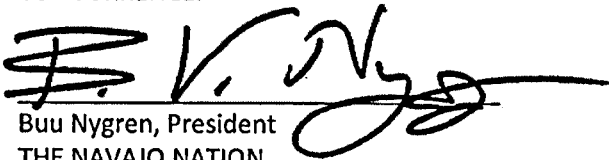
**CERTIFICATION**


I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, Navajo Nation, Arizona, at which a quorum was present and that same passed by a vote of 3 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023.

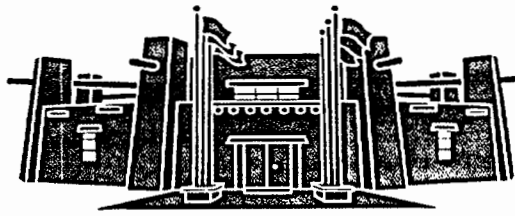
  
Herman Shorty, Chairperson  
Commission on Emergency Management

Motion by: Ben Bennett  
Second by: Eugenia Quintana

**CONCURRENCE:**

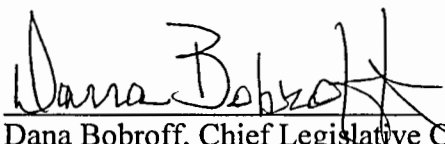
  
Buu Nygren, President  
THE NAVAJO NATION

  
Richelle Montoya, Vice President  
THE NAVAJO NATION



## MEMORANDUM

To : Hon. Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

From :   
Dana Bobroff, Chief Legislative Counsel  
Office of Legislative Counsel

Date : July 6, 2023

Re : **AN ACT RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE,  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;  
AMENDING TITLE 2 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE TO CODIFY  
VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE BY COUNCIL DELEGATES AT STANDING  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
SESSIONS**

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, although, as with all legislation, challenges are possible in the courts. You are advised and encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that 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. As you may be aware, the Speaker is authorized to refer this proposed resolution to other committees than those stated in the title.

If the proposed resolution 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. Ahéhee'.

OLC No. 23-232-1

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0147-23\_\_

SPONSOR: Amber Kanazbah Crotty

**TITLE: An Act Relating to the Law and Order Committee, Naabik'iyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code to Codify Virtual Attendance by Council Delegates at Standing Committee Meetings and Navajo Nation Council Sessions**

**Date posted: July 06, 2023 at 9:35PM**

**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.: 0147-23**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty**

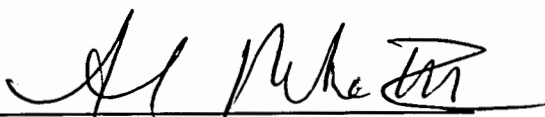
**TITLE: An Act Relating to the Law and Order Committee, Naabik'iyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code to Codify Virtual Attendance by Council Delegates at Standing Committee Meetings and Navajo Nation Council Sessions**

**Posted: July 06, 2023 at 9:35 PM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: July 12, 2023**

**Digital Comments received:**

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Comments Supporting</b>      | <i>None</i>  |
| <b>Comments Opposing</b>        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Doris Benallie</li> <li>2. Jas John</li> <li>3. Tony Francisco</li> <li>4. Laura Franklin</li> <li>5. Rose Charlie</li> <li>6. Leonardra McReeves</li> </ol> |
| <b>Comments/Recommendations</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tino Redsteer</li> <li>2. Doreen Rehbock</li> </ol>  |



**Legislative Secretary II  
Office of Legislative Services**

**July 12, 2023; 8:42 AM**

**Date/Time**

# Memo dated 7/10/23 return to in person meetings

Doris Benallie <dsbenallie@yahoo.com>

Mon 7/10/2023 2:08 PM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Our Honorable Navajo Nation President, Dr. Nygren: Please insist to all Officials to return to meetings in person meetings asap. Some Chapter Official are holding Tribal positions in Window Rock, Az., taking advantage of their pay coming from chapter meetings an being on payroll, double dipping since the Pandemic started, please audit your Tribal Personnel, with them in teleconference to their Chapters. Also some Chapter Officials live away from their community they represent, purposely avoiding the travel back to their hometown. Please change Election policy, candidate must live in their presiding community they represent, a must, without their illegal documentation. Also include that all Tribal Personnel must not become an Elected official nor a Committee appointed, because for a fact, some must perform they position description eight hours a day shift, not perform their elected or committee official position. My Tohatchi Chapter Vice President Halona is an example, always voicing he can see project though with his tribal Management position, when he attended Ethics training when first elected he never followed. Some falsified doctors statements to be doing teleconference. Our chapter claims, Tohatchi has college students wanting to attend online, of my years since my Civil Service retirement in 2005, never..ever witness one college student to do nor request. Thank you Honorable President hearing my comments, also PLEASE CONTINUE DOING THE AWESOME JOB YOU ARE DOING, YOU HAVE MY FAMILY PRAYERS DAILY FOR YOUR VICE MONTOYA TOO. GOD BLESS OUR NAVAJO NATION. 🙏🙏

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

# Untitled

jas <j\_johns2002@yahoo.com>

Wed 7/12/2023 8:16 AM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I am in disagreement with Eugenia request on having council delegates to attend thru zoom n phone. I believe they get paid enough to attend these meetings. They need to pay attention in every meeting not to sleep, not to be on their phone, AND MUCH more. this should be a norm for the sake of their ppl.

Navajo nation ppl should be the only one to be on zoom and phone call in because of the distance to window rock.

Come on be real forbus and solve some issues. YDL

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.



## Public comment

Tony Francisco <tffrancisco@icloud.com>

Tue 7/11/2023 2:50 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Please NO on the virtual attendance. All members are paid to show up in-person to do work for the people. We expect this, especially when the infrastructure for 4G isn't in place on the NAVAJO NATION, as a whole.

✍️ WalkINBeauty ✍️

Sincerely,

TONY F FRANCISCO

505.870.5799

WalkINBeauty

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## Legislation 0147-23

Laura Franklin <laura.franklin10@gmail.com>

Wed 7/12/2023 8:16 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

I am opposed to this legislation amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code to Codify Virtual Attendance by Council Delegates at Standing Committee Meetings and Navajo Nation Council Sessions.

Due to the fact that some delegates are not focused when they are on call-ins or zoom sessions. These meetings are during voting and are important that they all pay attention and focus on what legislation is being passed.

Thank you,  
Laura Franklin

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# Untitled

Rose Charlie <charlirose3@gmail.com>

Tue 7/11/2023 2:50 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Council delegates need to be subject to in person meeting. They've been on vacation too long during covid restrictions.  
WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.



0147-23

Leonardra McReeves <mcreevesl07@gmail.com>

Wed 7/12/2023 8:16 AM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Hello,

I am from Tohatchi Chapter and I am not in support of this legislation by Delegate Crotty.

Thank you.

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

## Legislation #0147-23.

Tino Redsteer <tinoredsteer@gmail.com>

Tue 7/11/2023 11:08 AM

To:comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

This legislation only covers one part of codifying virtual attendance by CD'S at standing committee and council sessions. Livestreams of ALL NNGOV and NNCOUNCIL deliberations ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL NNGOV/NNCOUNCIL ACTIVITIES. Compare 24th NNCOUNCIL transparency and accountability efforts of livestreams and available recordings to the ABSENT livestreams and recordings 25th NNCOUNCIL. You will find that there is NO COMPARISON since Speaker Curley and ALL CD'S REFUSE TO PROVIDE transparency and accountability as the foremost value to run a public entity. This legislation fails to address the overriding need for TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

Waste of time and Dine' bi beso.

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## Legislation Comments no. 0147-23

Doreen Rehbock <doreenrehbock@gmail.com>

Tue 7/11/2023 2:50 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Cc: Doreen Rehbock <doreenrehbock@gmail.com>;

The Legislation 0147-23 in my opinion is based on more convenience for Council Delegates and not so much for the real reason for Health and Wellness. Nevertheless, I find the Legislation to be more of a mechanism for convenience for traveling and usage of funds as gas is at an all time high via "The Recession." We can acknowledge the Health and Wellness of the Council and the collective difference in age among the Council and or immune compromises that may exist. As a voting member for the Navajo Nation I do support the continued use of Virtual and Teleconferencing to continue, BUT! Not just for Council Delegates Privileges... The entire Navajo Nation Government and its affiliates at the Chapter Houses and Grassroots Levels all need to be able to conduct their businesses with the usage of Virtual and/or Telecommunication. Based on the Covid-19 ongoing and everlasting existence, The 110 Chapter Communities and Chapters should be allowed to continue the same technical conduct that the Council Delegates want embedded into their governmental technological usage. It is unfair and inconsiderate for the Council Delegates to impose safety precautions for themselves and NOT! for the Navajo People and Voters first and foremost. Our Navajo Citizens are to come first, especially when it involves the Safety of the Health and Wellness standards of all its Citizens of the Navajo Nation.

Sec. D: of the Legislation stated that the Council Delegates said "Virtual Meetings enabled them to advocate for their communities at Council and Standing Committees, as well as provide enhanced transparency to the public." I myself do not see how Virtual meetings help display Transparency? I do not believe the Virtual meetings helped the Council Delegates, but that it indeed helped the community tribal voter members the opportunity to attend Chapter Meetings to voice their opinions and concerns that were THEN, relayed to the Council Delegates when they themselves could either teleconference or Virtually attend Chapter Meetings because virtual communication allows for less travel time and enables the Council Delegate to attend more meetings and meet more of their own work agendas without compromising overlapped or double booked meetings or agendas, this is more of an convince for the Delegates to utilize virtual meetings and gives them more opportunity to juggle multiple agendas at the pleasure of an office or home office.

\* Meetings for the 110 Chapter Communities need to also be continued and not just for the privilege usage of the Council Delegates, the participation of virtual meetings per Chapters is what enables the information and or data to be shared with Delegates at all meetings and sub committees. It gives the opportunities for the Tribal Community members to voice their concerns, ideas and suggestions to the Delegates without compromising the Health and Welfare of both parties involved by means of Livestream/google.meet and/or telecommunication.

Virtual and telecommunications usage throughout the Navajo Nation Chapter Communities, would and could offer more Transparency, Government Communication Information announcements and the Right to be more actively involved in the voters Chapter and or Navajo Nation Government Elections and Legislation Comment or Open quorum. The Navajo Nation is constantly stating that it wants to move forward in the advancement of technology use, Then why does the Navajo Nation Council only want their department or Council to be the only ones utilizing Virtual and telecommunication usage? Council Delegates seem to voice that they are for the communities and they want to provide opportunities to their communities, But wouldn't that include the usage of Technology for the community and all of its citizens and enrolled members. Why would the Navajo Nation Delegates only want to provide themselves the opportunity to utilize the benefits of virtual technology, All Navajo people should be provided the same opportunity to keep themselves, Elders, Veterans, Handicapped and Autoimmune public safe, the Council Delegates need to impose Health and Wellness standards for all the Nation and not just for themselves. I suggest the 25th Navajo Council Delegates reconsider their Legislation, and repeal or kill the bill and rewrite a new legislation that will benefit all Navajo Nation Government Meetings that include Chapter Virtual meetings.

**Compensation of Council Delegates:** Too many times in the past have we the Voters, noted Council members being absent or late, Accountability needs to be implemented just like any other job, Accountability to arrive on time! Holding accountability if a Council Member did not attend a meeting for the required amount of time that meets the requirements of attaining payroll.

Meeting the Standards of policy and procedures to continued absences or late arrivals to meetings needs to be implemented as well as coaching and monitoring. If continued absences occur or the Delegate continues to show disregard for not being ontime, They need to be reprimanded and or be held to some type of plan of action. Delegates are voted to an elected position to work for the people and are elected on the basis of good conduct to represent our communities and Nation and therefore should hold the highest of regard and etiquette to our Navajo Nation Standards and Policies and Procedures as they receive compensation by form of payroll.

And with that, An increase of wage should be permitted with the consideration of the current economic recession and driven

petroleum increases. Too long has the Navajo Nation wage been at an all time low. Wage increase across the board needs to be conducted especially for those that work as "boots on the ground work environment", but with wage increase, the Navajo Nation needs to affirm a way of Revenue for the future, especially once ARPA funds are diminished and depleted. But with an increase of wage, comes the commitment of holding the Elected Delegates Accountable to his/her position.

I hope the 25th Council Delegates understand the fairness that needs to include our other Government establishments and recognizes the Health and Welfare of all participants that involve our Diné Citizens, again whether at Council meetings, Chamber meetings, OPVP meetings and all levels of Navajo Nation Government affiliates, the proposal should include all of the Navajo Nation Health and Welfare and not just their own, I think this legislation needs to have further ammendments or needs further constructing to include other Navajo Nation Government Affiliates such as Chapter Houses as well as those govenment buildings that may employ immune comprable people or employees to also utilize virtual and teleconfrencing hybrid meetings.

Thank you,  
Doreen Rehbock  
Low Mountain.

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**THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

**LEGISLATION NO.: 0147-23**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty**

**TITLE: An Act Relating to the Law and Order Committee, Naabik'íyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code to Codify Virtual Attendance by Council Delegates at Standing Committee Meetings and Navajo Nation Council Sessions**

**Posted: July 06, 2023 at 9:35 PM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: July 12, 2023**

**Digital Comments received:**

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Comments Supporting</b>      | <i>None</i>  |
| <b>Comments Opposing</b>        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Carolene Bitsui</li><li>2. Debbie Begay</li><li>3. Shirley Barney</li></ol> |
| <b>Comments/Recommendations</b> | <i>None</i>  |

  
**Legislative Secretary II  
Office of Legislative Services**

**July 13, 2023; 9:00 AM  
Date/Time**



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## Legislation 0147-23. ~Red~



Lene Bitsui <lenebitsui@gmail.com>

Yesterday, 12:57 PM

comments ↕

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Inbox

Yá'át'ééh.

My name is Carolene Bitsui. I am an Enrolled Member of the Navajo Nation. I am a Registered Voter with Kayenta Chapter.

I do NOT support Legislation 0147-23.

Reasons:

- ☐ Audio always breaks up when a Delegate speaks.
- ☐ Delegates are distracted when listening-in on important Legislations & Topics during Naabik'iyati & Council.
- ☐ Votes are made by Delegates without knowing what's being voted on when they're calling in.
- ☐ Delegates constantly repeat the phrase:

"I couldn't hear you"

"What are we voting on?"

"I'm attending another meeting, so I didn't hear the motion"

"I got kicked off, I didn't hear you"

☒ ☐ DUE TO ALL THESE DELAYS, THESE MEETINGS RUN TWICE AS LONG. THEREFORE, CAUSE DELAYS BECAUSE OF QUESTIONS IN VOTING, REPEATED EXPLANATIONS OF LEGISLATION'S, THEN CAUSING STAFF TO DRIVE HOME LATE DUE TO EXTENDED HOURS OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AND MAKING IT UNSAFE FOR THEM TO DRIVE LATE OR IN WINTRY ROAD CONDITIONS OR RAIN OR SLEET.

☒ Lastly, every Delegate is voting on behalf of 400,000+ Enrolled Diné. 100% attention should be made during Naabik'iyati, Council, Committee meetings & Subcommittee meetings. By being there in-person. Our People deserve no less.

Thank you,

Carolene Bitsui

[lenebitsui@gmail.com](mailto:lenebitsui@gmail.com)

~a Happy & Hózhó Diné Asdzáán~

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## Legislation No. 0147-23 Comments Submission



Debbie Begay <dbegay@usc.edu>

Yesterday, 2:08 PM

comments ↕

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Inbox

Greetings,

I am a registered voter of Sanostee, NM. I would like to express strong opposition regarding Legislation No. 0147-23 (An Act Relating to the Law and Order Committee, Naabik'íyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code to Codify Virtual Attendance by Council Delegates at Standing Committee Meetings and Navajo Nation Council Sessions). My opposition details include:

- Council delegates are not fully engaged when they participate in virtual meetings. Business conducted has been repeated, stalled, and delayed.
- Having virtual meetings has slowed down the progress of meetings. When voting on legislation, voting has to be conducted a few rounds to try to capture all votes.
- And per the Speaker, COVID restrictions have been lifted and should apply to the Council Delegates to provide in person services. They were in fact voted in by the Navajo people.
- Often technical issues have been experienced throughout the meeting. This also hinders the progress of the meetings.

In summary, virtual meetings are not beneficial for how business is conducted for the Navajo Nation on behalf of the Council Delegates. It only has hindered the effectiveness, progress and accountability of the council delegates.

If I may add, Section Two Findings, section F in the legislation does not make sense. I am sure many others including myself do not support this legislation. So we do not deem it "in the best interest of the Navajo Nation and Dine people..." This statement should be updated to indicate that this is the preferred method of the Council Delegates only and not the Dine people.

Thank you,

--

**Debbie Begay**

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147-23



Shirley Barney <barneyshirley91@yahoo.com>

Today, 7:52 AM

comments ↕

📧 Reply all | ▼

Inbox

Opposing Navajo Nation Council to continue virtual calling in meetings. As a leader you have to travel to meetings for your communities and represent all 110 chapters. During the months of council delegates virtual meetings. As I listen to some meetings, there were delegates sitting in their favorite chair, driving & hitting no service zones and coming back on until the meeting is almost over then its like "can you hear me now" or "I drop my phone" (yah da la). Dont they know there is a law, no texting or calling while driving. Therefore, if delegates can make it to other meeting/events they need to come back to the Council Chambers and do their official busines. Not fair for everyone that return to their offices. So to all delegates who are still calling in, put your mask on and return to Window Rock to do official Navajo Nation Business. You were elected as leaders, shouldn't be scared!!

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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**THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

**LEGISLATION NO.: 0147-23**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty**

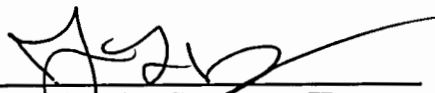
**TITLE: An Act Relating to the Law and Order Committee, Naabik'íyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code to Codify Virtual Attendance by Council Delegates at Standing Committee Meetings and Navajo Nation Council Sessions**

**Posted: July 06, 2023 at 9:35 PM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: July 12, 2023**

**Digital Comments received:**

|                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Comments Supporting</b>      | <i>None</i>              |
| <b>Comments Opposing</b>        | <b>1. Claire Alvarez</b> |
| <b>Comments/Recommendations</b> | <i>None</i>              |



**Legislative Secretary II  
Office of Legislative Services**

**July 17, 2023; 8:40 AM**

**Date/Time**


 Reply all |   Delete Junk |  ...

## Legislation No. 0147-23



Claire Alvarez <Claire\_Alv@msn.com>

Fri 7/14, 10:15 AM

comments 

 Reply all | 

Inbox

Regarding the above legislation and comment period. I am writing to express dissatisfaction and am against said legislation for virtually held meetings by delegates.  
I feel, as chapter officials, business regarding Navajo Nation should be conducted in person. The only virtual sessions should be for the voters to listen and comment in such meetings/sessions.  
As a voting member from the Fort Defiance chapter, I feel strongly about this and pray our voices are heard by our elected officials.

Thank you so much,

Claire Alvarez  
Fort Defiance voting member

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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**LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE  
25<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

**FIRST YEAR 2023**

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Speaker,

The **LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE** to whom has been assigned:

**Legislation No. 0147-23:** An Act Relating to the Law and Order Committee, Naabik'iyati' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code to Codify Virtual Attendance by Council Delegates at Standing Committee Meetings and Navajo Nation Council Session – Sponsor: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty/Honorable Otto Tso

Has had it under consideration and reports a DO PASS with no amendment.

And thereafter the legislation was referred to Naabik'iyati' Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Eugenia Charles-Newton, Chairwoman  
Law and Order Committee  
25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

Date: July 12, 2023

Main Motion:

Motion : Honorable Herman M. Daniels, Jr.

Second : Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie

Vote : 3-0-2

## **LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE**

**Special Meeting  
July 12, 2023**

**Legislation No. 0147-23:** An Act Relating to the Law and Order Committee, Naabik'iyati' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code to Codify Virtual Attendance by Council Delegates at Standing Committee Meetings and Navajo Nation Council Session – Sponsor: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty/Honorable Otto Tso

### **VOTE TALLY SHEET:**

#### **Main Motion:**

Motion: Honorable Herman M. Daniels, Jr.

Second: Honorable Cherilyn Yazzie

Vote: 3-0-2

Yea: Hon. Cherilyn Yazzie, Hon. Herman M. Daniels, Jr., Hon. Nathan Notah

Nay: None

Not Voting: Hon. Eugenia Charles-Newton, Chairwoman

Excused: Hon. Steven Arviso

Absent: None



Eugenia Charles-Newton, Chairwoman  
Law and Order Committee  
25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council



Laureen Spencer, Legislative Advisor  
Office of Legislative Services

**25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE REPORT  
First Year 2023**

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

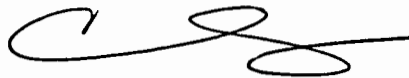
**NAVAJO LEGISLATIVE BILL #0147-23**

An Act Relating to the Law and Order Committee, Naabik'íyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code to Codify Virtual Attendance by Council Delegates at Standing Committee Meetings and Navajo Nation Council Sessions

*Sponsored by: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Co-Sponsored by: Honorable Otto Tso*

Has had it under consideration and reports the same that the legislation **FAILED AND REFERRED TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL.**

Respectfully Submitted,



*Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Chairperson  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE*

**13 July 2023**

**MAIN MOTION**

*Motioned by: Honorable Germaine Simonson*

*Seconded by: Honorable Lomardo Aseret*

*Vote: 7 In Favor, 10 Opposed (Chairperson Crystalyne Curley Not Voting)*



# NAVAJO NATION

151

Naa'bik'iyati' Committee Regular Meeting

7/13/2023  
04:14:37 PM

Amd# to Amd#      New Business: Item E.  
MOT Simonson, G      Legislation 0147-23: Amending  
SEC Aseret, L      Title 2 of the Navajo Nation  
Code to Codify Virtual Attend...

FAILED

Yeas : 7

Nays : 10

Excused : 5

Not Voting : 1

## Yea : 7

Aseret, L  
Crotty, A

Daniels, H  
James, V

Nez, R  
Simonson, G

Yazzie, C

## Nay : 10

Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E  
Damon, S

Johnson, C  
Nez, A  
Notah, N

Parrish, S  
Slater, C

Tolth, G  
Yanito, C

## Excused : 5

Begay, H  
Claw, S

Jesus, B

Simpson, D

Tso, O

## Not Voting : 1

Arviso, S

Presiding Speaker: Curley, C

# **25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL ACTION REPORT First Year 2023**

The **NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL** to whom has been assigned:

## **NAVAJO LEGISLATIVE BILL #0147-23**

An Act Relating to the Law and Order Committee, Naabik'íyáti' Committee, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code to Codify Virtual Attendance by Council Delegates at Standing Committee Meetings and Navajo Nation Council Sessions

*Sponsored by: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty  
Co-Sponsored by: Honorable Otto Tso*

Has had it under consideration and reports the same that the legislation **FAILED (LEGISLATION DID NOT RECEIVE THE REQUIRED 16 IN FAVOR VOTES).**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
*Honorable Crystalyn Curley, Speaker*  
**25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

**20 July 2023**

### **MAIN MOTION**

*Motioned by: Honorable Casey A. Johnson*

*Seconded by: Honorable Lomardo Aseret*

*Vote: 07 in Favor, 15 Opposed (Speaker Curley Not Voting)*

### **CEASE DEBATE**

Motion to Cease Debate on Legislation 0147-23

*Motioned by: Honorable Vince R. James*

*Seconded by: Honorable Lomardo Aseret*

*Vote: 20 in Favor, 02 Opposed (Speaker Curley Not Voting)*

----- **FAILED MOTIONS** -----

## **AMENDMENT #1**

1. Page 1, line 15, after "COUNCIL", insert SPECIAL
2. Page 3, line 26, insert new paragraph as follows:
  - B. Delegates attending a Navajo Nation Council Regular Session may receive sixty dollars (\$60.00) per diem for each day official business is conducted. and mileage reimbursement for use of a private vehicle at the rate established in the Navajo Nation Travel Policy and Procedures Handbook, and amendments thereto.
3. Page 3, line 26, after "Council", delete ~~meeting~~ and insert Special Session
4. Page 4, line 4, delete ~~week of a Regular Session of the Navajo Nation Council and per day for~~ and insert day of any Navajo Nation Council
5. On page 4, at line 26, insert new sentence as follows: Those attending virtually assume the location of where the meeting is physically held or the location from which the meeting is streamed.
6. Renumber or re-letter succeeding paragraphs or sections accordingly, if necessary; and this amendment shall supersede inconsistent language contained in any other committee amendment, which shall be conformed to the intent or language of this amendment. The Office of Legislative Services, with notice to the sponsor(s) of the Legislation, is hereby authorized to make necessary grammatical changes

*Motioned by: Honorable Nathan Notah*

*Seconded by: Honorable Otto Tso*

*Vote: 06 in Favor, 16 Opposed (Speaker Curley Not Voting)*

# NAVAJO NATION

202

7/20/2023

Navajo Nation Council Summer Session

04:00:27 PM

Amd# to Amd#

Legislation 0147-23: Amending

FAILED

MOT Johnson, C

Title 2 of the Navajo Nation

SEC Aseret, L

Code to Codify Virtual

Attendance by Council Delegate..

**Yeas : 7**

**Nays : 15**

**Excused : 0**

**Not Voting : 1**

**Yea : 7**

Arviso, S

Begay, H

Crotty, A

Simonson, G

Aseret, L

Charles-Newton, E

James, V

**Nay : 15**

Begay, N

Jesus, B

Notah, N

Tolth, G

Claw, S

Johnson, C

Parrish, S

Tso, O

Damon, S

Nez, A

Simpson, D

Yazzie, C

Daniels, H

Nez, R

Slater, C

**Excused : 0**

**Not Voting : 1**

Yanito, C

**Presiding Speaker: Curley, C**

# NAVAJO NATION

201

7/20/2023

Navajo Nation Council Summer Session

03:57:30 PM

Amd# to Amd#

Cease Debate on Legislation

PASSED

MOT James, V

0147-23

SEC Aseret, L

**Yeas : 20**

**Nays : 2**

**Excused : 0**

**Not Voting : 1**

## **Yea : 20**

Arviso, S

Damon, S

Nez, A

Simpson, D

Aseret, L

Daniels, H

Nez, R

Slater, C

Begay, H

James, V

Notah, N

Tolth, G

Charles-Newton, E

Jesus, B

Parrish, S

Tso, O

Claw, S

Johnson, C

Simonson, G

Yazzie, C

## **Nay : 2**

Crotty, A

Begay, N

## **Excused : 0**

## **Not Voting : 1**

Yanito, C

**Presiding Speaker: Curley, C**

# NAVAJO NATION

200

Navajo Nation Council Summer Session

7/20/2023

03:33:18 PM

Amd#1 to Amd#

Page 1, Line 15, after "COUNCIL"

FAILED

MOT Notah, N

insert SPECIAL

SEC Tso, O

Page 3, Line 26, Insert New

Paragraph as Follows:

**Yeas : 6**

**Nays : 16**

**Excused : 0**

**Not Voting : 1**

## **Yea : 6**

Arviso, S  
Daniels, H

James, V  
Nez, A

Notah, N

Tso, O

## **Nay : 16**

Aseret, L  
Begay, H  
Begay, N  
Charles-Newton, E

Claw, S  
Crotty, A  
Damon, S  
Jesus, B

Johnson, C  
Nez, R  
Parrish, S  
Simonson, G

Simpson, D  
Slater, C  
Tolth, G  
Yazzie, C

## **Excused : 0**

## **Not Voting : 1**

Yanito, C

**Presiding Speaker: Curley, C**