

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Second Year, 2020

AN ACTION RELATING TO NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO SENATE BILL NO. 99, AUTHORIZING PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO GRANT DIPLOMAS TO VIETNAM VETERANS

**Section One. Authority**

The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the delegated authority, among other duties and responsibilities, "to assist and coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to proposed county, state and federal legislation impacting the Navajo Nation" and "to coordinate all federal, county and state programs with other standing committees and branches of the Navajo Nation government to provide the most efficient delivery of services to the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§701 (A) (4) and (8).

**Section Two. Findings**

- A. Many young Navajo men and women served honorably in the Vietnam War and conflict, but were unable to earn their high school diplomas due to their service in the United States military.
- B. The burdens these men and women face as a result of their military service should not be exacerbated by their inability, through no fault of their own, to have earned a high school diploma.
- C. The Navajo Nation is internally grateful for the service of its Veterans and finds it in the best interest of the Navajo people and Navajo Veterans to support New Mexico Senate Bill No. 99, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION; AUTHORIZING PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO GRANT DIPLOMAS TO VIETNAM VETERANS, attached as **Exhibit A.**

**Section Three. Approval**

The Navajo Nation hereby supports the passage of New Mexico Senate Bill No. 99, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION; AUTHORIZING PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO GRANT DIPLOMAS TO VIETNAM VETERANS, as found in **Exhibit A**

**CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of 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 15 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2020.



Honorable Seth Damon, Chairman  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

Motion: Honorable Vince James

Second: Honorable Mark A. Freeland

Chairman Seth Damon not voting



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SENATE BILL 99

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020**

INTRODUCED BY

George K. Munoz

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; AUTHORIZING PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO GRANT DIPLOMAS TO VIETNAM VETERANS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public School Code is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS--VIETNAM CONFLICT VETERANS.--

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Public School Code, a local school board may issue a high school diploma to a Vietnam conflict veteran who:

(1) is an honorably discharged member of the armed forces of the United States;

(2) was scheduled to graduate from high school after February 28, 1961 and before May 7, 1975;

1 (3) was a resident of New Mexico and attended  
2 a high school in the locality of the current school district;  
3 and

4 (4) left high school before graduation to  
5 serve in the Vietnam conflict.

6 B. A local school board may issue a high school  
7 diploma to a qualifying Vietnam conflict veteran regardless of  
8 whether the veteran holds a high school equivalency credential  
9 or is deceased.

10 C. The department shall adopt and promulgate rules  
11 to carry out the provisions of this section, including:

12 (1) an application form to be submitted to the  
13 local school board by the Vietnam conflict veteran or a person  
14 acting on behalf of the veteran if the veteran is incapacitated  
15 or deceased; and

16 (2) what constitutes acceptable evidence of  
17 eligibility for a diploma."

18 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the  
19 provisions of this act is July 1, 2020.



# NAVAJO NATION

429

1/23/2020

Naa'bik'iyati Committee Meeting

07:25:46 PM

Amd# to Amd#	Legislation 0005-20; Legislation
MOT James, V	0014-20; Legislation 0015-20;
SEC Freeland, M	Legislation 0016-20; Legislation
	0018-20

PASSED

Yeas : 15

Nays : 0

Excused : 1

Not Voting : 7

## Yea : 15

Begay, K	Daniels	Nez, R	Tso, E
Begay, P	Freeland, M	Smith	Walker, T
Charles-Newton	Halona, P	Stewart, W	Yellowhair
Crotty	James, V	Tso, D	

## Nay : 0

## Excused : 1

Wauneka, E

## Not Voting : 7

Begay, E	Henio, J	Tso, C	Yazzie
Brown	Slater, C	Tso, O	

Presiding Speaker: Damon