

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0323-18

DATE: September 28, 2018

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


PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to requests the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a veteran's hospital and create personnel positions to address housing and other benefits on the Navajo Nation to meet the needs of the Navajo veterans.

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:
Website Posting Time/Date: 4:59pm 9/28/18
Posting End Date: 10-03-18
Eligible for Action: 10-04-18

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—FOURTH YEAR, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

 K 7 Kee Allen Begay Jr
Primary Sponsor
TRACKING NO. 0323-18 Jarvis Hahn

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

WHEREAS:

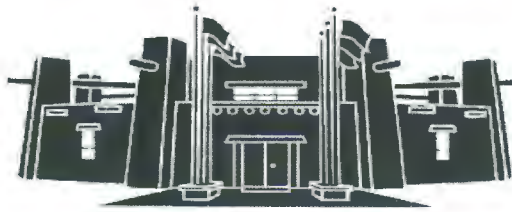
- A. The Navajo Nation established the Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHS) as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered HEHS to review and recommend resolutions regarding veterans and/or veteran services. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 400 (A), 401 (B)(6)(a) (2012). *See also* CO-45-12.
- B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'íyáti' Committee to coordinate with all committees, Chapters, branches and entities concerned with all Navajo appearances and testimony before Congressional committees, and departments of the United States government. *See* 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A), 701 (A)(8) (2015); *See also* CO-45-12.
- C. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the United States of America, Treaty of 1868, Aug. 12, 1868, 15 Stat. 667.

- 1 D. Historically, Native Americans served in the military at a higher rate than any other
2 ethnic group. U.S. GOV'T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, HEALTH CARE ACCESS:
3 IMPROVED OVERSIGHT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PRIORITIZATION CAN IMPROVE
4 ACCESS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS 1 (2014).
- 5 E. Currently, there are over 128,000 living Native American veterans with
6 approximately 10,000 from the Navajo Nation. *See* U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015
7 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates: 2011-2015 American Community
8 Survey American Indian and Alaska Native Tables.
- 9 F. Native American veterans have provided invaluable service and allegiance to the
10 United States of America and bring great honor to their tribal communities.
- 11 G. Within the last 5 years, reports of excessive and sometimes deadly waiting times for
12 veterans seeking government health care came to light and President Obama promised
13 accountability. Scott Bronstein & Tom Cohen, *Obama: Shinseki stays for now, but VA*
14 *misconduct will be punished*, CNN (May 23, 2014) available at www.cnn.com.
- 15 H. In 2010, tribal leaders and representatives offered comments on the U.S. Department of
16 Veteran Affairs (VA) and Indian Health Service (IHS) 2010 Memorandum of
17 Understanding and other health related issues. One comment recorded showed that IHS
18 understood the native culture, languages, and background; however, IHS did not
19 understand the specific needs of Native veterans like the VA, i.e. post-traumatic stress
20 disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:
21 2012 TRIBAL CONSULTATION REPORT 11 (2012).
- 22 I. There is currently no United States Veteran Affairs office or services on the Navajo
23 Nation. This requires Navajo veterans to travel off reservation to seek veteran services.
24 The Navajo Nation has established a Veterans Administration through appropriations
25 from the Navajo Nation General Fund however; assistance through the Navajo Veterans
26 Administration is limited to housing and financial assistance.
- 27 J. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to request the United States Department of
28 Veterans Affairs to establish a veteran's hospital and create personnel positions to
29
30

1 address housing and other benefits on the Navajo Nation to meet the needs of the Navajo
2 veterans.

3
4 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- 5 A. The Navajo Nation respectfully requests the United States Department of Veterans
6 Affairs to establish a veteran's hospital and create personnel positions to address housing
7 and other benefits on the Navajo Nation to meet the needs of the Navajo veterans.
8
9 B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation
10 Speaker, Navajo Washington Office and their designees, to advocate for this request.
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
23rd Navajo Nation Council Delegate

FROM: 
Candace French, Attorney
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: September 28, 2018

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

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

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

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

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0323-18_____

SPONSOR: Kee Allen Begay Jr.

TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services and Naabik'íyáti' Committees; Respectfully Requesting the United States Veteran Affairs Administration to Establish a Veterans Hospital and Create Personnel Positions to Address Housing and Benefits on the Navajo Nation for Navajo Nation Veterans

Date posted: September 28, 2018 at 6:59pm

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7590

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

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

LEGISLATION NO.: 0323-18

SPONSOR: Honorable Kee Allen Begay Jr.


TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services and Naabik'iyáti' Committees; Respectfully Requesting the United States Veteran Affairs Administration to Establish a Veterans Hospital and Create Personnel Positions to Address Housing and Benefits on the Navajo Nation for Navajo Nation Veterans

Posted: September 28, 2018 at 6:59pm

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: October 3, 2018

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting (1)	1. Vern Lee
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>
Inconclusive Comments	<i>None</i>


Legislative Secretary II
Office of Legislative Services

10/4/2018 8:24am
Date/Time

0323-18

Vern Lee <vernlee@gmail.com>

Tue 10/2/2018 8:38 PM

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

Cc: Kee Allen Begay Jr. <keeallenbegayjr@navajo-nsn.gov>; Candice Pioche-Zunie <piochezunie@gmail.com>; George Tolth <georgetolth@gmail.com>; Gilbert Chee <gilbertchee.gc@gmail.com>; Inann G. Johns <inann.g.johns@gmail.com>; Andersen Tullie <andersen682@gmail.com>; Kim Silentwalker <ksilentwalker.va@gmail.com>;

Ye teeh shi natanii,

Navajo Veterans has been left behind all these years and it's time, we as a Nation take a stand to claim what is rightful ours through earning benefits.

We have to travel to Albuquerque, Prescott, Phoenix, Grand Junction, Denver, and Salt Lake. It takes money, time and another person to assist.

We contribute much to the freedom of our country. Just like the Navajo Code Talkers offer our language, our young warriors and our uranium to win World War 11. And we don't speak Japanese these days.

Time to have a Navajo Veterans Hospital establish on the Navajo Nation land.,

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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

LEGISLATION NO.: 0323-18

SPONSOR: Honorable Kee Allen Begay Jr.

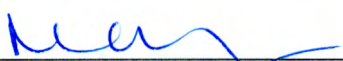
TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services and Naabik'iyáti' Committees; Respectfully Requesting the United States Veteran Affairs Administration to Establish a Veterans Hospital and Create Personnel Positions to Address Housing and Benefits on the Navajo Nation for Navajo Nation Veterans

Posted: September 28, 2018 at 6:59pm

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: October 3, 2018

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting (2)	1. Resolution Shiprock Chapter Veterans Organization 2. Navajo Veterans Advisory Council Resolution No. NNVAC-12-18
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>
Inconclusive Comments	<i>None</i>



**Legislative Secretary II
Office of Legislative Services**

10/22/2018 4:48 pm

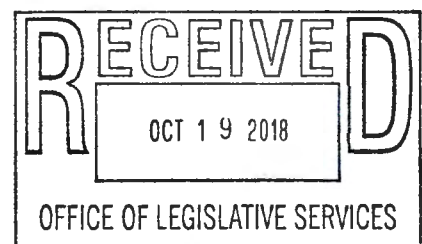
Date/Time

Resolution of the Shiprock Chapter Veterans Organization

**SUPPORTING Legislation 0323-18, an action relating to Health,
Education and Human Services and the Naabik'iyati' Committees;
Respectfully requesting the United States Veteran Affairs
Administration to establish a Veterans Hospital and Create personnel
positions to Address Housing and Benefits on the Navajo Nation for
Navajo Veterans.**

WHEREAS:

1. The Shiprock Chapter Veterans Organization (SCVO) of the Shiprock Chapter acts on this Resolution pursuant to the authority conferred to the SCVO through the Navajo Nation Code, Title 26, Chapter 1. B Purpose which states "Through adoption of this Act, the Navajo Nation Council delegates to the Chapter governmental authority with the respect to local matters consistent with Navajo Law, and
2. The Shiprock Chapter confers upon the Shiprock Chapter Veterans Organization(SCVO), here through the adoption of "Establishment of the Shiprock Chapter Veterans Organization", Resolution 09-18-11-084-SHIP, that the SCVO will be committed to endorsing and supporting causes to remedy and address the many needs of the Navajo Veterans; and
3. The Shiprock Chapter Veterans Organization have met and endorses Legislation 0323-18 ; and



NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Shiprock Chapter Veterans Organization (SCVO) membership hereby support and recommend the establishment of a Veterans Hospital and the creation of personnel positions to address Housing and Benefits for the Navajo Nation Veteran on the Navajo Nation.

Motion by Jerry Todacheene

2nd to the Motion by Harlin Benally

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered at a duly called Shiprock Chapter Veterans Organization meeting, at which a quorum was present and that the same was approved by a vote of 48 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention, on this 9th day of October, 2018.

Lloyd Begaye, SCVO Commander



Lester Light, SCVO Vice-Commander





NAVAJO VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

CHAIR: Candice Pioche-Zunie VICE CHAIR: Gilbert Chee ACTING DIRECTOR: Ryan Sandoval

Resolution

An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services and Naabik'íyáti' Committees;
Respectfully Requesting the United States Veteran Affairs Administration to Establish a Veterans
Hospital and Create Personnel Positions to Address Housing and Benefits on the Navajo Nation
for Navajo Nation Veterans

NNVAC-12-18

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to Resolution of the Navajo Nation Council CJA-3-16, Navajo nation Veterans Act; Title II, Section One (E, I, M, N, O, R, T); SS 1032 (B-5,9,10), The Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council is duly recognized by the Navajo Nation; and
2. Pursuant to Navajo Nation Council Resolution CMA-25-71; The Navajo Veterans were recognized and a Navajo Nation Veterans Administration was established under the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation Government- Office of the President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation; and
3. The Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council is duly recognized by the Navajo Nation with a Plan of Operation to address the issues, concerns and advocate for all Navajo Veterans; and
4. The Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council recognizes and acknowledges that it is entrusted to strive toward unification of all Navajo Nation Veterans and Local Leadership to provide leadership and coordinate with the needs of the veterans; and
5. The Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council recognizes, understands and acknowledges that the Navajo Nation has a government to government relationship before and after the signing of 1868 Treaty; and
6. The Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council recognizes, understands and acknowledges the Shirley Administration in 2005 established with Northern Arizona VA Health Care System to receive a three-year, \$250,000 grant to hire three counselors to provide (traditional) services for PTSD to Navajo and northern Arizona veterans to no success; and
7. The Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council recognizes, Understands and acknowledges Navajo Veterans travel over 200 miles for their health care. Because of the distance, lack of money for lodging and meals, appointments may be post pone or cancelled. Not getting the needed health care puts them at risk, mentally and physically; and
8. The Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council recognizes, Understands and acknowledges that Navajo Veterans are mistreated, mocked, discriminated because of their ethic and refused traditional ritual at other VA Hospitals off the Navajo Nation; and
9. The Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council recognizes, Understands and acknowledges this legislation and fully supports an amendment to request the United States Veterans Affairs Department to provide additional training and certification to Navajo Nation Administration staff; and
10. The Navajo Nation Advisory Council is requesting an amendment on the Legislation 0323-18, page 3 of 3, line 10, Insert after Navajo Nation Speaker, Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council supports: An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services and Naabik'íyáti' Committees; Respectfully Requesting the United States Veteran



NAVAJO VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

CHAIR: Candice Pioche-Zunie VICE CHAIR: Gilbert Chee ACTING DIRECTOR: Ryan Sandoval

Affairs Administration to Establish a Veterans Hospital and Create Personnel Positions to Address Housing and Benefits on the Navajo Nation for Navajo Nation Veterans

2. The Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council recognizes, Understands and acknowledges this legislation and fully supports an amendment to request the United States Veterans Affairs Department to provide additional training and certification to Navajo Nation Administration staff; and

3. The Navajo Nation Advisory Council is requesting an amendment on the Legislation 0323-18, page 3 of 3, line 10, Insert after Navajo Nation Speaker, Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council.

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-I-O-N

The Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council Hereby Certifies the Foregoing Resolution that was Considered at a Duly Called Meeting in TseBonito, NM, Navajo Nation) and that same was approved and passed with a vote of 07 in Favor; 00 Opposed and 01 Abstain on the **19th Day of October 2018**.

Motioned: Inann Johns

Seconded: Nelda Achee

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Candice Pioche-Zunie", is written over a horizontal line.

Candice Pioche-Zunie - Chair
Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council

Committee Report

THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE NAVAJO
NATION COUNCIL to whom has been assigned;

LEGISLATION NO. 0323-18

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

(Note: Eligible for Committee Action October 04, 2018)

Sponsor: Honorable Kee Allen Begay

Has had under consideration and report the same with the recommendation
that Legislation 0323-18 PASS with no Amendment and no Directive; and
therefore referred the same to the NAA'BIK'IYATI' COMMITTEE OF THE NAVAJO
NATION COUNCIL

Respectfully Submitted,



Norman M. Begay, Vice-Chairperson
Health, Education and Human Services Committee

October 22, 2018 - Main Motion

Motion by: Honorable Nathaniel Brown

Seconded by: Honorable Nelson BeGaye

Vote: 3 in favor; 0 Opposed; Vice-Chairperson Not Voting

Yeas: Nathaniel Brown; Nelson BeGaye; Jonathan L. Hale

Nays: None

Absent (excused): None

Not Voting: Amber Kanazbah Crotty

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
October 22, 2018

Roll Call
Vote Tally Sheet

LEGISLATION NO. 0323-18

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

(Note: Eligible for Committee Action October 04, 2018)

Sponsor: Honorable Kee Allen Begay

October 22, 2018 - Main Motion

Motion by: Honorable Nathaniel Brown

Seconded by: Honorable Nelson BeGaye

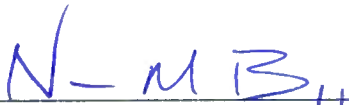
Vote: 3 in favor; 0 Opposed; Vice-Chairperson Not Voting

Yeas: Nathaniel Brown; Nelson BeGaye; Jonathan L. Hale

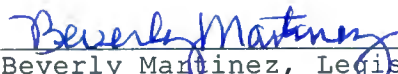
Nays: None

Absent (excused): None

Not Voting: Amber Kanazbah Crotty



Norman M. Begay, Vice-Chairperson
Health, Education and Human Services Committee



Beverly Martinez, Legislative Advisor
Health, Education and Human Services Committee