LEGISLATION SUMMARY
Tracking No. 0024-22

Date: January 28, 2022

Re: **AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, BUDGET AND FINANCE, LAW AND ORDER, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTÍ COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS TRUST FUND AT 12 N.N.C. §1176 TO CREATE SEPARATE BUSINESS UNIT NUMBERS WHEN FUNDING NAVAJO VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS**

Purpose: to amend the Veterans Trust Fund statute to require the creation of separate business unit numbers whenever Navajo Nation funds are awarded to local veterans' organizations.

OLC No. 21-440-1

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Vetoed
Website Posting Time/Date: January 28, 2022 3:45 pm
Posting End Date: February 2, 2022
Eligible for Action: February 3, 2022

Resources & Development Committee
Thence
Health Education & Human Services Committee
Thence
Budget & Finance Committee
Thence
Law & Order Committee
Thence
Naabik'íyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Fourth Year, 2022

Introduced by:

(Prime Sponsor) Kee A. Allen Begay, Jr. Amber Kanazbah Crotty

Tracking No. 0024-22

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, BUDGET AND FINANCE, LAW AND ORDER, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTÍ COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS TRUST FUND AT 12 N.N.C. §1176 TO CREATE SEPARATE BUSINESS UNIT NUMBERS WHEN FUNDING NAVAJO VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

A. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the delegated responsibility to "establish policies and legislation appropriate to the housing needs of the Navajo Nation and its People." 2 N.N.C. §500, §501(C)(3).

B. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and exercises oversight authority over veterans' services, among other duties and responsibilities. 2 N.N.C. §400, §401(C)(6).

C. The Budget and Finance Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council that has the authority to review and recommend the budgeting, appropriation, investment, and management of all funds. 2 N.N.C. §301(B)(2).

D. The Law and Order Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the delegated 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(A), §601(B)(14).

E. The Naabik'íyáti Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the delegated responsibility to recommend resolutions to the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §700, §701(A)(3).

F. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation, and as such is empowered to amend Navajo Nation law. 2 N.N.C. §102.

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

A. The Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund, 12 N.N.C. §§1171 - 1176, was established to provide funding for programs, projects and services or activities for Navajo veterans.

B. During the FY2022 Comprehensive Budget process, confusion arose regarding allocation of funds for local chapter veterans' organizations. Some funds were allocated in a single business unit for various local chapter veterans' organizations. This use of a single business unit number has concerned local chapter veterans' organizations because with this procedure there is no way to determine the amount of funds allocated for each of their respective organizations.

C. Clarity and transparency is recommended by Navajo veterans and they have therefore requested that the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration create individual business unit codes during the comprehensive budget process for each of the several local chapter veterans' organizations.

D. The Navajo Nation Council recognizes that there is a need to continue and prioritize funding for Navajo veterans, particularly at the local level.

SECTION THREE. APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO 12 N.N.C. § 1176

The Navajo Nation hereby amends the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund, 12 N.N.C. §1176, as follows:

Title 12. Fiscal Matters

Subchapter 8. Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund

*****

§1176. Expenditure of Trust Fund

A. 75 percent (75%) of the total income earned, plus the current projected set aside of the Fund ~~will~~ shall be used as supplemental funding for programs and services to benefit veterans, as noted under §1172 on an annual basis, excluding two percent (2%), which shall be for the exclusive use of the Veterans Housing Program in accordance with 2 N.N.C. §1171(A) and with Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CS-56-17. The Fund's income earned at the end of the previous audited fiscal year, plus the current fiscal year projected set aside, will be used to determine the allowable expenditure (i.e., budget purposes). The excess of the Fund income over expenditures shall be reinvested in the Fund to cover the rate of inflation and to provide for reasonable Fund growth.

B. Tribal grants to non-tribal government programs and projects shall be awarded in accordance with rules and regulations developed by the ~~Department of~~ Navajo Nation Veterans ~~Affairs~~ Administration, ~~in consultation with~~ and approved by the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council and, if required, the Navajo Nation Council.

C. Of the 75 percent (75%) of the Fund~~, total amount as set forth~~ as described in paragraph A, ninety-five percent (95%) ~~of the proceeds will~~ shall be used for the purposes set forth in Subsections (A) and (B) of this Section and five percent (5%) ~~will~~ shall be used for administrative purposes~~, and this will be reviewed further by the Office of Management and Budget and the Program~~.

D. The Navajo Nation Veterans Administration shall maintain a separate business unit for budgeting purposes for each local chapter veterans' organization whose plan of operation has been duly approved by its respective certified/non-certified Chapter or Township.

Except as provided at §1171, all Trust Fund income distribution shall be determined pursuant to all eligible Navajo veterans and distributed among those applicable Navajo Nation chapters to be expended in accordance with §1172 of this Plan.

****

SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE

This legislation shall become effective in accordance with 2 N.N.C. §221(B).

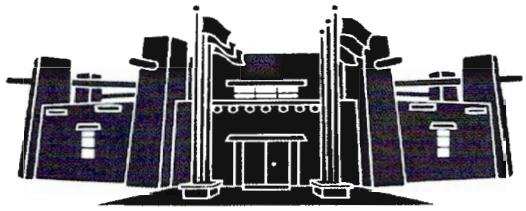
SECTION FIVE. CODIFICATON

The provisions of this legislation that amend the Navajo Nation Code shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall incorporate such amended provisions in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.

SECTION SIX. SAVING CLAUSE

If any provision of this legislation is determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, or a District Court of the Navajo Nation without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, those portions of this legislation not determined invalid shall remain valid and effective.

Office of Legislative Counsel
Telephone: (928) 871-7166
Fax # (928) 871-7576



Honorable Seth Damon
Speaker
24th Navajo Nation Council

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hon. Kee Allen Begay, Jr.
Resources and Development Committee

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

DATE: January 28, 2022

RE: **AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, BUDGET AND FINANCE, LAW AND ORDER, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTÍ COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS TRUST FUND AT 12 N.N.C. §1176 TO CREATE SEPARATE BUSINESS UNIT NUMBERS WHEN FUNDING NAVAJO VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS**

Per your request, the Office of Legislative Counsel has prepared the above-referenced proposed legislation and related summary sheet. Based on existing Navajo Nation law and other applicable laws, and upon review of all supporting documents submitted to OLC, this legislation as drafted is legally sufficient. However, as with any action of government, this legislation may be subject to review by the Navajo Nation courts in the event of proper legal challenge.

Please ensure that this legislation is precisely what you want. You are encouraged to review this proposed legislation to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction.

OLC has reviewed the appropriate standing committees' authorities to consider this legislation, based on the standing committees' powers and responsibilities set forth in Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code. Based on its review, OLC has listed those committees in the title of this legislation. Nevertheless, the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council may assign this legislation to committee(s) other than those shown in the title, pursuant to his authority under 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

If you find this document unacceptable for any reason, please immediately contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel (at extension 7166) and advise me of the changes you would like made to this proposed legislation. Thank you.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION

LEGISLATION NO: _0024-22__ **SPONSOR: Kee Allen Begay Jr.**

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Health, Education and Human Services, Budget and Finance, Law and Order, and Naabik'íyáti Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund at 12 N.N.C. §1176 to Create Separate Business Unit Numbers When Funding Navajo Veterans' Organizations

***Date posted*: January 28, 2022 at 3:45 PM**

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) 871-7586

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.: 0024-22

SPONSOR: Honorable Kee Allen Begay Jr.

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Health, Education and Human Services, Budget and Finance, Law and Order, and Naabik'íyáti Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund at 12 N.N.C. §1176 to Create Separate Business Unit Numbers When Funding Navajo Veterans' Organizations

Posted: January 28, 2022 at 3:45 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: February 2, 2022

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	**1.) Gilbert Platero** **2.) Northern Navajo Veterans' Organization** **3.) Ronald Roy**
Comments Opposing	**1.) Marie Zwierlein**
Comments/Recommendations	**1.) Eugene Marshall**

VSRedhorse
Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services

February 3, 2022; 10:30 AM
Date/Time

Legislation No: 0024-22

G Platero <gplatero60@gmail.com>

Tue 2/1/2022 1:11 PM

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

As Commander of the Eastern Navajo Veterans Organization, I am in total support of this legislation. It is imperative that each Chapter Veterans Organization receives their own Business Unit Number along with their own separate allocation of the Veterans Trust Funds.

The beginning of the current FY has been a total disaster. The entire ENA Veterans Trust Fund was depleted within two months. Many Veterans did not receive assistance, this was due to the manner in which the assistance requests were processed, with no accountability.

Many Veterans who did not need a specific type of assistance made the request and were awarded the funds, leaving many still in dire need. Agency Veterans Organizations and CVO's CANNOT wholeheartedly provide assistance to Veterans within their Chapters under the Consolidated Agency Budget Formula.

At an ENA Veterans Meeting, held 6 January 2022, many concerns were raised by Commanders of the ENA Veterans Organization. Commanders expressed the need for separate business accounts to better manage Trust Funds within their perspective Chapters.
The Eastern Navajo Agency Veterans Organization is in total support of Separate Business Unit Numbers as indicated within Legislation 0024-22 and to return to the 50/50 Formula to allocate funding to Chapter Veterans Organizations.

--
Gilbert Platero, Commander, ENA Veterans Organization
WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

NORTHERN NAVAJO VETERANS' ORGANIZATION
Commander: Elouise Brown
Co-Commander: Vern Lee
Vice Commander: Calvin Charley
Secretary: Vacant

Resolution of Northern Navajo Veterans Organization

NNVO-04-22

NORTHERN NAVAJO VETERANS' ORGANIZATION SUPPORTS LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND ORDER, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTÍ COMMITTEES AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING NAVAJO NATION VETERANS TRUST FUND, 12 N.N.C. § 1176, EXPENDITURE OF TRUST FUND

Whereas:

1. Pursuant to the Navajo Nation Veterans Act, Section One. Findings paragraph D. The purpose of this legislation is to establish a Veterans' administration under the Office of the President and Vice-President, which effectively and efficiently provides outreach, services and benefits to veterans; and

2. Pursuant to the same Act, Section One. Findings paragraph E. The legislation established Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council to recognize veterans and ensure participation in policies and data system development; and

3. Pursuant to the same Act, Section One. Findings paragraph M. There is a need to ensure that Navajo veterans have direct involvement in policy-making decisions regarding veteran's services and benefits; and

4. The **Northern Navajo Veterans Organization** is locally, regionally and Navajo Nation wide recognized to address concerns, issues and advocate for its veterans; and

5. The **Northern Navajo Veterans Organization**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

NORTHERN NAVAJO VETERANS' ORGANIZATION SUPPORTS LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE RESOURCE AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND ORDER, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTÍ COMMITTEES AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING NAVAJO NATION VETERANS TRUST FUND, 12 N.N.C. § 1176, EXPENDITURE OF TRUST FUND

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

The Northern Navajo Veterans Organization Hereby Certifies the Foregoing Resolution that was Considered at a Duly Call Meeting at San Juan College, Farmington, NM and that the same was approved and passed with a vote of 33 in Favor; 1 Opposed and 2 Abstain on the 14th of January 2022.

Motioned: Sanford Tsosie
Seconded: Henry Lee

Elouise Brown

Commander, Elouise Brown

0024-22

Roy Ronald <roy.ronald880@gmail.com>

Reply all

Yesterday, 12:47 PM

comments

Action Items

Navajo Nation Council,
My name is Ronald Roy, on behalf of the Red Valley veterans organization, we want to maintain a separate business unit and we approve of Legislation 24-22 and vote "yes". Please pass this Legislation for our CVO's to avoid the next Comprehensive Budget confusion.
Thank you
Ronald Roy
Red Valley veterans commander
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Legislation 24-22

Marie Zwierlein <maz016@hotmail.com>

Mon 1/31/2022 5:18 PM

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

Legislation 24-22

1. Sponsor does not have absolute consensus from the entire Navajo Veterans organization, many CVO's are in acceptance of one business unit at each agency to manage the trust fund budgets.
2. The reason for that is equal opportunity to receive trust fund assistance without waiting for a CVO meeting, waiting for a budget transfer (which takes about 2 or so months) or meeting a stringent rule that a CVO demands like having the veteran's residency for a period of six month to possible a year.
3. Trust fund is for every eligible Veteran, not just those who are favored to receive assistance by CVO officers or for other purposes but for equal financial assistance.
4. Previous years, B&F committee questioned trust fund carryovers, and have wanted to know why there was even any carryover. The one business unit utilizes all of the funds and so far, there is no carryover, which is something B&F committee wanted, for the funds to be expended not carried over.
5. Has the sponsor asked the about the time and effort that is required to manage 110 business units? These are administrative business and should not be demanded by someone who does not understand the process of administering a program.
6. My CVO, Nahodishgish is accepting of the one business unit administration of the trust funds, this allows use to help as many Veterans when they need it and for the sponsor to unilaterally make a demand without asking us is wrong and we request that the council vote no on this legislation or any other legislation that involves Veterans for these sponsors do not have the authority to seek changes.
7. Council needs to let the Navajo Nation Programs, administrations and departments do their jobs instead of impeding progress.

Marie Zwierlein
USMC Veteran/ Eastern Agency
maz016@hotmail.com

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legislation 0024-22

Eugene Marshall <marshalleugene51@gmail.com>

Reply all

Yesterday, 12:48 PM

comments

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Eugene Marshall** <marshalleugene51@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Feb 1, 2022 at 4:50 PM
Subject: legislation 0024-22
To: <comments@navajonsn.gov>

Hello everyone, my name is Eugene Marshall. I am the Veterans Commander for the community of Iyanbito,NM. It is in our best interest that we re-establish the Veterans Trust Fund Budget back to the local Veterans Chapter Organizations. By doing so, we (Veterans Organizations) will be able to have complete control of our budgets and we will have accountability of the funding. We will know who is getting what assistance and that will help us to be able to help more of our veterans.

The consolidated budget has its pros and cons. Yes, it is a quicker way to dis-burst funding, but it allows for any veteran to submit for funding with no limitations. This is why the Veterans Trust Funds budget was depleted in a two-month span and not all veterans were assisted.

I understand that the allocated dollar amount to each Veterans Organization will differ, and it will be based on the current veterans count for that chapter. With that being said, I would like to recommend that we (Veterans Affairs offices and Veterans Organizations) start requesting more funding from Washington. I recommend at least increasing it to 10%. So, 5% going to the Navajo Nation Veterans, 3% going to the Veterans Housing, and 2% going to the veterans administration. The veterans population is growing each year and we need to be able to assist all veterans in any way we can. This also gives the funding to allow for more veterans administration to help in all our veterans offices.

Thank you for your time. Any questions i can be reached at emailed at marshalleugene51@gmail.com, or send a letter to me at ort Wingate, NM, 87316.

Sincerely, Commander Eugene Marshall (Iyanbito Chapter House)

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THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

LEGISLATION NO.: 0024-22

SPONSOR: Honorable Kee Allen Begay Jr.

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Health, Education and Human Services, Budget and Finance, Law and Order, and Naabik'íyáti Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund at 12 N.N.C. §1176 to Create Separate Business Unit Numbers When Funding Navajo Veterans' Organizations

Posted: January 28, 2022 at 3:45 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: February 2, 2022

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	**1.) Freda Johnson**
Comments Opposing	***None***
Comments/Recommendations	***None***

VSRedhorse
Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services

February 9, 2022; 3:30 PM
Date/Time

Legislation 24-22 Bill to Amend Navajo Veteran laws Comment

Johnson, Freda <fj588120@ohio.edu>

Mon 2/7/2022 12:54 PM

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

Yatahey to the 24th Navajo Nation Council

I am submitting my comment to support Delegate Kee Allen Begaye Jr. as he recently sponsored 3 bills- Legislation 24-22 to support Navajo Veterans. I support this as clarification is needed in Veteran funding. In the past, the Navajo Veteran funds have been mismanaged and there have been no input from Navajo Veterans on various concerns such as fund allocation, housing, and assistance (home improvement, scholarship, propane, and etc.). Moving forward with more input from Navajo Veterans is healthy communication with those who are affected.

While funding was depleted in a short time span, it is time to request for a more funding for Navajo Veterans. At least a 10% increase as inflation is at its highest since the Raegan administration. As Americans across the country seek means to adjust to inflation, our Navajo people need to be considered. Our Navajo Veterans reside on the Navajo reservation with little resources and need additional funding. The Veteran population is growing each year as many Veterans look to return to the Navajo Nation. While resources are scarce in some areas, the Navajo Nation is our home and with support from the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration, many young Navajo Veterans will return home.

Freda Johnson
Navajo Veteran
Ft. Defiance Agency

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THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

LEGISLATION NO.: 0024-22

SPONSOR: Honorable Kee Allen Begay Jr.

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Health, Education and Human Services, Budget and Finance, Law and Order, and Naabik'íyáti Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund at 12 N.N.C. §1176 to Create Separate Business Unit Numbers When Funding Navajo Veterans' Organizations

Posted: January 28, 2022 at 3:45 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: February 2, 2022

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	**1) Eastern Navajo Agency Veteran's Organization**
Comments Opposing	*None*
Comments/Recommendations	*None*

Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services

February 16, 2022; 11:30 AM
Date/Time

RESOLUTION OF THE EASTERN NAVAJO AGENCY VETERANS' ORGANIZATION

ENAVO-22-03

The Eastern Navajo Agency Veterans Organization sets forth this Resolution to request the Navajo Nation OPVP, the Navajo Nation Health, Education and Human Services Committee, the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration, and the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council, to abolish the use of the Consolidated Agency Budget System when allocating funds for the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund

WHEREAS:

1. The Eastern Navajo Agency Veterans Organization, as a sub-division of the Navajo Nation Government to serve in the best interest of Navajo Veterans, Spouses of Deceased Veterans, and Gold Star Mothers and,

2. The Eastern Navajo Agency Veterans Organization is comprised of 31 Chapter Veterans Organizations and,

3. The Eastern Navajo Agency Veterans Organization during a monthly teleconference meeting held February 3, 2022, discussed, and supports Legislation Number 0024-22, sponsored by Navajo Nation Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, amending the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund at 12 N.N.C. §1176 to create separate business unit numbers when funding the Navajo Chapter Veterans Organizations and,

4. The Eastern Navajo Agency Veterans Organization requests to reinstate the use of the Navajo Nation's 50/50 Formula when allocating the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Funds for the Chapter Veterans Organizations and,

5. The Eastern Navajo Agency Veterans Organization requests for each Chapter Veterans Organization to manage their perspective Trust Fund allocation within their organization and,

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Eastern Navajo Agency Veterans Organization, Spouses of Deceased Veterans, and Gold Star Mothers respectfully submit and support Resolution ENAVO-22-03 to create separate business units for each of the Chapter Veterans Organizations, and to reinstate the Navajo Nation's 50/50 Formula when allocating Trust Funds for Chapter Veterans Organizations and to allow each Chapter Veterans Organization to manage their allocated funds within their perspective Chapter Veterans Organization. And that the new budget formula take effect at the beginning of FY23.

CERTIFICATION

I, Gilbert Platero, Commander, ENAVO certifies this is a true copy of a resolution duly adopted at an ENVO Meeting held on February 3, 2022, at which a quorum of the ENVO was present. Motioned by Commander Raphael Martin, Second by Commander Katrina Yazzie. Motioned carried and approved by a vote of 12 in favor, 1 opposed, 10 abstained.

Gilbert Platero, Commander, Eastern Navajo Agency Veterans Organization

ENA Veterans Vice-Commander
Lester Emerson
Thoreau Chapter

ENA Veterans Commander
Gilbert Platero
To'Hajiilee Chapter

ENA Veterans Secretary
Jerry Whiterock
Standing Rock Chapter

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

LEGISLATION NO.: 0024-22

SPONSOR: Honorable Kee Allen Begay Jr.

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Health, Education and Human Services, Budget and Finance, Law and Order, and Naabik'íyáti Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund at 12 N.N.C. §1176 to Create Separate Business Unit Numbers When Funding Navajo Veterans' Organizations

Posted: January 28, 2022 at 3:45 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: February 2, 2022

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	*None*
Comments Opposing	*None*
Comments/Recommendations	**1) Naschitti Community Governance Veterans Organization**

Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services

February 22, 2022; 1:10 PM
Date/Time

Naschitti Community Governance Veterans Organization
P. O. Drawer D; Sheep Springs, New Mexico 87364
Phone: (505) 732-5400/5402 Fax: (505) 732-5406
Website: naschitti@navajochapters.org

NCGVO-22-220212-09

RESOLUTION OF THE
NASCHITTI COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE VETERANS ORGANIZATION

APPROVING A REQUEST TO THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION TO RESPECTFULLY CLARIFY THE STATUS OF THE FY-2020 AND FY-2021 VETERANS TRUST FUND CARRY-OVERS BY STATING THE TOTAL AMOUNTS FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR. IF THE FUNDS WERE SPENT, INDICATE WHAT IT WAS USED FOR, WHO APPROVED THE EXPENDITURE? WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE VETERANS TRUST FUNDS WERE SPECIFICALLY ALLOCATED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE VETERANS, SURVIVING SPOUSES, AND GOLD STAR MOTHERS.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to Resolution CJ-S-40 of the Navajo Tribal Council, the Navajo Warriors (Veterans) were authorized to rearm to assist in defending the Constitution of the United States of America and the Democratic form of Government; ever since the 1940s, the Navajo Warriors (Veterans) has been unrecognized and treated as a "Special Interest Group" by their government; most endured many hardships and some that passed on never realized their earned Veterans' benefits and healthcare services; and

2. Pursuant to the Navajo Nation Council Resolution CMA-25-71, the Fort Defiance Agency Veteran Organization was established, and which also established the Department of Navajo Veteran Affairs within the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation; and

3. Acknowledging that the Naschitti Community Governance Veterans Organization is entrusted to strive toward unification of the community veterans and other local resources to provide leadership and coordinate efforts to meet the needs of our veterans, surviving spouses, and gold star mothers; and

4. To our knowledge the Fort Defiance Agency Chapter Veterans Organization never received a carry-over for Fiscal Year 2020 and Fiscal Year 2021; and

5. We have been told that the Fiscal Year 2022 Veterans Trust Fund has been depleted as of January 2022: and

6. What happened to the carry-overs for the previous Fiscal Years; those carry-overs should have been used to replenish the depleted funds with; and

7. If there were carry-overs for the previous fiscal years, what happened to those funds? Were they put back into the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance? If so, what were the amounts and why were we never told about that?; and

8. Is there no accountability whatsoever for the VTF? What happened to transparency when large amounts are involved and is specifically for use by veterans, surviving spouses and gold star mothers?; and

9. If the funds were used for something else, who approved the use of those funds? Isn't there a daily log made for each request for assistance that is approved, showing amounts, dates, and all the other pertinent information?; and

Naschitti Community Governance Veterans Organization
P. O. Drawer D; Sheep Springs, New Mexico 87364
Phone: (505) 732-5400/5402 Fax: (505) 732-5406
Website: naschitti@navajochapters.org

10. Were the funds used for a project we are not aware of? Who approved and authorized the use of the Veterans Trust Funds for that project and how much were used?; and

11. We don't want to sit idly by and let things continue on like nothing major happened; and

12. If a veteran was caught utilizing these funds for other than intended purposes, we are sure NNVA would come down on the veteran hard and restrictions would come into play for all the other veterans; and

13. We just want truthful answers to these questions that are posed and request clarification by NNVA as to what happened to the Fiscal Year 2020 and Fiscal Year 2021 Veterans Trust Fund Carry-Over Amounts..

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Naschitti Community Governance Veterans Organization approves this request to the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration to respectfully clarify the status of the Veterans Trust Fund for Fiscal Year 2020 and Fiscal Year 2021, and what those amounts were. We expect transparency and accountability regarding the status of these Veterans Trust Funds.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered for approval by the Naschitti Community Governance Veterans Organization at a regularly scheduled meeting at the Naschitti Community Governance Center, Naschitti, Navajo Nation, (New Mexico), at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a Vote of **-12-** in Favor, **-00-** Opposed, and **-01-** Abstained on this **12th** day of **February, 2022**.

Motion: Mike Becenti
Second: Felix Benally

Gregory R. Begay, Commander
Naschitti Community Governance Veterans Organization

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

LEGISLATION NO.: 0024-22

SPONSOR: Honorable Kee Allen Begay Jr.

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Health, Education and Human Services, Budget and Finance, Law and Order, and Naabik'íyáti Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund at 12 N.N.C. §1176 to Create Separate Business Unit Numbers When Funding Navajo Veterans' Organizations

Posted: January 28, 2022 at 3:45 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: February 2, 2022

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	**1) Nazlini Chapter Government**
Comments Opposing	***None***
Comments/Recommendations	***None***

Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services

February 24, 2022; 5:44 PM
Date/Time

NAZLINI CHAPTER RESOLUTION
NAZL-FEB-22-027

SUPPORTING VETERANS RELATED LEGISLATIONS 0021-22, 0022-22 AND 0024-22 SPONSORED BY HONORABLE KEE ALLEN BEGAY JR. OF THE 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

WHEREAS:

1) Pursuant to N.N.C., Title 26, Section 101, and the Navajo Nation Council Resources and Development Committee Legislation #RDCF-0052-15 dated February 17, 2015, Nazlini Chapter Government was recognized as an LGA Certified Chapter and delegated with the responsibility and authority to make decisions over local chapter matters; AND

2) Honorable Kee Allen Begay Jr., 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate is sponsoring three (3) Navajo Veterans related legislations as follows; AND

0021-22	An Act relating to Health, Education and Human Services, Law and Order and Naabikiyati Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending the Selection Process for the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Executive Director: and amending 2 N.N.C. §§ 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036 relating to the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council.
0022-22	An Act relating to Health, Education and Human Services, Law and Order and Naabikiyati Committees and the Navajo Nation Council: Amending 2 N.N.C.§ 1033 to establish a program manager to administer the Veterans Housing Program.
0024-22	An Action relating to the resources and Development, Health, Education and Human Services, Budget and Finance, Law and Order and Naabikiyati Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund at 12 N.N.C. § 1176 to create separate business unit numbers when funding Navajo Veterans Organizations.

3) Nazlini Chapter supports Honorable Kee Allen Begay Jr.'s efforts to amend Navajo Nation laws that will benefit our Navajo Veterans and the services they are entitled to.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1) The Nazlini Chapter hereby supports Navajo Veterans related legislations 0021-22, 0022-22 and 0024-22 sponsored by Honorable Kee Allen Begay Jr. of the 24th Navajo Nation Council.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered and moved for adoption by Leo Mann Jr., seconded by Irvin R. Shirley and passed by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained, this 16th day of February 2022.

Lee V. Bigwater, Chapter President

Joseph Dedman Jr., Chapter Vice President

JoAnn Dedman, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

Irvin R. Shirley, Grazing Representative

RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

FOURTH YEAR 2022

COMMITTEE REPORT
(CONSENT AGENDA)

Mr. Speaker,

The **RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** to whom has been assigned:

> **LEGISLATION #0024-22:** AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, BUDGET AND FINANCE, LAW AND ORDER, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS TRUST FUND AT 12 N.N.C. §1176 TO CREATE SEPARATE BUSINESS UNIT NUMBERS WHEN FUNDING NAVAJO VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS. *Sponsor: Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr.* *Co-Sponsor: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty*

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

And thereafter the legislation was referred to the Health, Education & Human Services Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Rickie Nez, *Chairperson*
Resources and Development Committee of
the 24th Navajo Nation Council

Date: February 25, 2022 – Special Meeting (Teleconference)
Location: Resources and Development Committee also called in via teleconference from their location within the boundary of the Navajo Nation.

CONSENT AGENDA MOTION:

M: Mark A. Freeland **S:** Thomas Walker, Jr. **V:** 4-0-1 (CNV)
In Favor: Thomas Walker, Jr.; Kee Allen Begay, Jr.; Herman M. Daniels; Mark A. Freeland
Opposition: None
Excuse: None
Not Voting: Rickie Nez, *Chairperson*

(NOTE: VOTE TALLY attached hereto)

RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

FOURTH YEAR 2022

ROLL CALL
VOTE TALLY SHEET
(CONSENT AGENDA)

LEGISLATION #0024-22: AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, BUDGET AND FINANCE, LAW AND ORDER, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS TRUST FUND AT 12 N.N.C. §1176 TO CREATE SEPARATE BUSINESS UNIT NUMBERS WHEN FUNDING NAVAJO VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS. *Sponsor: Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr.* *Co-Sponsor: Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty*

Date: February 25, 2022 – Special Meeting (Teleconference)
Location: Resources and Development Committee also called in via teleconference from their location within the boundary of the Navajo Nation.

CONSENT AGENDA MOTION:

M: Mark A. Freeland **S:** Thomas Walker, Jr. **V:** 4-0-1 (CNV)
In Favor: Thomas Walker, Jr.; Kee Allen Begay, Jr.; Herman M. Daniels; Mark A. Freeland
Opposition: None
Excuse: None
Not Voting: Rickie Nez, *Chairperson*

Honorable Rickie Nez, *Chairperson*
Resources and Development Committee

Rodney L. Tahe, *Legislative Advisor*
Office of Legislative Services

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

LEGISLATION NO.: 0024-22

SPONSOR: Honorable Kee Allen Begay Jr.

TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development, Health, Education and Human Services, Budget and Finance, Law and Order, and Naabik'íyáti Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund at 12 N.N.C. §1176 to Create Separate Business Unit Numbers When Funding Navajo Veterans' Organizations

Posted: January 28, 2022 at 3:45 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: February 2, 2022

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	**1) Fort Defiance Agency Veterans' Organization**
Comments Opposing	*None*
Comments/Recommendations	*None*

Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services

April 18, 2022; 7:44 PM
Date/Time

FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY VETERANS' ORGANIZATION
AGENCY MEETING
P.O. Box 430
Window Rock, Arizona, 86515
Commander: Olin T. Kieyoomia Vice Commander: Cassandra Morgan Secretary: Lionel Allen
Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council Representative: Linda Roanhorse- Onesalt

RESOLUTION

Supporting Legislation 0024-22; An Action Relating To The Resources And Development, Health Education And human Services, Budget And Finance, Law And Order, And Council; Amending The Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund At 12 N.N.C. § 1176 To Create Separate Business Unit Numbers When Funding Navajo Veterans' Organizations.

FDAVO-02-22-03

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to The Navajo Nation Veterans Act; Title II, Section One (E,I,M.N,O,R,T); SS 1032 (B-5,9,10), The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization is duly recognized by the Navajo Nation through resolution of the Veterans Agency; 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 Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization 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 Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization 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. In 1942, the Navajo Nation Council passed a resolution to aid and defend the United States against all subversive and assisted in the United States Selective Services Board to draft the eligible Navajo to serve in the United States Armed Services and reaffirm allegiance to the United States and expression of patriotism; and
6. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization recognizes, understands and acknowledges NNVA/ Fort Defiance Agency Office Staff Shall Provide financial update, assistance, technical support and clarification, and shall maintain each fund account and provide monthly financial reports to each CVO.
7. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization recognizes, understands and acknowledges that the Veteran Service Officer, Accounts Maintenance Specialist and the Fort Defiance Agency Veterans Organization office provide guidance and technical assistance on the Navajo Veterans Trust Fund Budgets allocated to the Chapter Veterans Organizations; and
8. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization recognizes, understands and acknowledges that the one pot of funding systems did NOT work as initiated by the Navajo nation Veterans Administration Director; and

FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY VETERANS' ORGANIZATION
AGENCY MEETING
P.O. Box 430
Window Rock, Arizona, 86515
Commander: Olin T. Kieyoomia Vice Commander: Cassandra Morgan Secretary: Lionel Allen
Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council Representative: Linda Roanhorse- Onesalt

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Supporting Legislation 0024-22; An Action Relating To The Resources And Development, Health Education And human Services, Budget And Finance, Law And Order, And Council; Amending The Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund At 12 N.N.C. § 1176 To Create Separate Business Unit Numbers When Funding Navajo Veterans' Organizations.
2. To amend the Veterans Trust Fund statute to require the creation of separate business unit numbers whenever Navajo Nation funds are awarded to local veterans' organizations.
3. All (26) Chapter Veteran Organizations were educated, informed, provided afforded time to discuss and debate and implement resolutions of support and or opposition.

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

The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Hereby Certifies the Foregoing Resolution, that was Considered at a Regular Duly Called Meeting in Nahata Dzill, Arizona (Navajo Nation) and that same was approved and passed with a vote of **36** in Favor; **00** Opposed and **00** Abstain on the **02ND day of FEBRUARY 2022.**

Motioned: Elvin Attakai, Nahata Dzill
Seconded: Ronald Daw, Houck

Olin T. Kieyoomia- Commander
Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization