

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET
Tracking No. 0021-22

DATE: January 23, 2022

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND ORDER, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' 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

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will amend the selection process of the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Executive Director. (NOTE: amendments at 2 N.N.C. §§ 1031(B) and 1034(E)(1) pertain to selection process of the NNVA Executive Director and shall take effect with the new appointment of a NNVA Executive Director after the six-year term of the current Executive Director's contract has expired or the current Executive Director is otherwise no longer contracted as Executive Director, whichever event transpires first). This legislation further amends the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council to become the Navajo Nation Veterans Board of Commissioners with additional authority. This legislation also clarifies the responsibility and authority for the Executive Director to the Navajo Nation Veterans Board of Commissioners. Lastly, this legislation provides amendments to the structure and terms limits for the Navajo Nation Veterans Board of Commissioners.

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committee. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each committee member to review the proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: VBREDAWME
Website Posting Time/Date: January 27, 2022 6:27 pm
Posting End Date: February 1, 2022
Eligible for Action: February 2, 2022

Health Education & Human Services Committee
Thence
Law & Order Committee
Thence
Naabik'iyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Fourth Year, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Kee Allen Begay JR
(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0021-22

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND
ORDER, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' 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

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITIES

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and has the power to review and recommend resolutions relating to veterans and veteran services. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400(A), 401(B)(6).
- B. The Law and Order Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and has the power to review and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council on proposed amendments to and enactments in the Navajo Nation Code. 2 N.N.C. §§ 600(A), 601(B) (14)
- C. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and has the power to review proposed legislation which requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §§ 700(A), 164(A)(9).

1 D. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §
2 102(A).

3 E. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1036, amendments made to the Navajo Nation Veterans Act
4 require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Navajo Nation Council upon the recommendation
5 from the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council.
6

7 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

8 A. The purpose of this legislation is to change the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council
9 to become the Navajo Nation Veterans Board of Commissioners with the following
10 authority:

11 1. To recommend appointment of the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration
12 Executive Director to the Navajo Nation Council for confirmation after the
13 President of the Navajo Nation selects an Executive Director as a nominee. To
14 recommend termination of the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Executive
15 Director to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee and the Navajo
16 Nation Council with notice given to the Navajo Nation President.

17 2. To recommend to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee to
18 approve the rules, policies and procedures for the Board of Commissioners and the
19 Navajo Nation Veterans Administration in accordance with the laws of the Navajo
20 Nation.

21 3. To recommend to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee and the
22 Navajo Nation Council for any modification to legislation, or address any concerns
23 relating to veterans and veterans affairs with notice provided to the Navajo Nation
24 President.

25 4. To review and make recommendations for funding and budget matters of the Board
26 of Commissioners and the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration.

27 B. Navajo Nation statutory law currently states that the "President of the Navajo Nation,
28 after consultation with Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council, shall retain by contract
29 for a term of six (6) years an Executive Director who shall head the Veterans
30 Administration." 2 N.N.C. § 1031 (A). This legislation amends 2 N.N.C. § 1031(A) to

1 allow the President of the Navajo Nation to recommend a qualified Navajo Nation
2 Veterans Administration Executive Director to the Navajo Nation Veterans Board of
3 Commissioners who will then recommend the appointment of an Executive Director to
4 the Health, Education and Human Services Committee and Navajo Nation Council for
5 confirmation.

6 C. Navajo Nation Council Resolution No. CJA-3-16 established the Navajo Nation Veterans
7 Administration and the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council. Within the stated
8 purposes for passing Resolution No. CJA-3-16, the Navajo Nation recognized continued
9 respect and honor for our Navajo veterans through the historic time from
10 Naayéé'neizghání and Tóbájishchíní, to the Navajo Code Talkers using our language in
11 World War II, and current veterans who recently served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Along
12 with respect and high honor, Navajo veterans are in a unique situation and serve
13 understanding our language and culture and share unique experiences. The Navajo
14 Nation Veterans Administration Executive Director shall be an enrolled member of the
15 Navajo Nation.

16 D. The Navajo Nation Veterans Board of Commissioners is the appropriate governmental
17 entity to recommend an Executive Director for the Navajo Nation Veterans
18 Administration since, as veterans themselves, the Navajo Nation Veterans Board of
19 Commissioners fully understand the needs and advocates on behalf of all Navajo Nation
20 veterans, qualified surviving spouses, and Gold Star family members with quality,
21 transparent and consistent service. See Resolution No. HEHSCJY-04-16.

22 E. This legislation also amends the selection process for the Navajo Nation Veterans Board
23 of Commissioners with Commissioners to be confirmed by the Health, Education and
24 Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. On the other hand, the ex-
25 officio shall be selected either from the Blue Star or Gold Star family and be confirmed
26 by the Navajo Nation Veterans Board of Commissioners.

27 F. This legislation further amends the Navajo Nation Veterans Board of Commissioners to
28 hold bi-monthly meetings which will allow the veterans to meet frequently and address
29 matters promptly.
30

- 1 G. This legislation also incorporates a two-year term limit for a Veteran Board of
2 Commissioner and the ex-officio to serve on the Commission. Selection to the Veteran
3 Board of Commissioners is also amended to allow other veterans from their respective
4 Agency Veteran Organization to serve as a Veteran Board of Commissioner.
- 5 H. Lastly, the duty and responsibility of the Executive Director to the Navajo Nation
6 Veterans Board of Commissioner is amended and clarified at 2 N.N.C. § 1032(A)(7).
- 7 G. It is in the best interest of Navajo Nation veterans to amend 2 N.N.C. § 1031(A) to select
8 2 N.N.C. §§ 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036 relating to the Navajo Nation Veterans
9 Advisory Council.

10
11 **SECTION THREE. AMENDMENTS TO 2 N.N.C. §§ 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, AND**
12 **1036**

13 The Navajo Nation hereby amends the Navajo Nation Code, Title 2 as follows:
14

15 **Title 2. Navajo Nation Government**

16 **Chapter 5. Executive Branch**

17 **Subchapter 1. Generally**

18 ...

19 **Article 3. Navajo Nation Veterans Administration**

20
21 **§ 1031. Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Establishment**

- 22 A. The Navajo Nation Veterans Administration is established under the Office of the
23 President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation. ~~The President of the Navajo Nation,~~
24 ~~after consultation with the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council, shall retain by~~
25 ~~contract for a term of six (6) years an Executive Director who shall head the Veterans~~
26 ~~Administration.~~

27 **B. Executive Director:**

- 28 1. The Navajo Nation Veterans Administration shall be headed by an Executive
29 Director who shall serve at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council.
30

1 2. The Executive Director shall be an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and
2 honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces.

3 3. The Navajo Nation President shall recommend the Executive Director to the Navajo
4 Nation Veterans Board of Commissioners at a negotiated salary during such
5 President's administration.

6 4. The Navajo Nation Veterans Board of Commissioners shall indicate through
7 resolution its support to the Navajo Nation President's nominee and forward the
8 nominee to the Health Education and Human Services Committee and the Navajo
9 Nation Council for confirmation. If the Navajo Nation Veterans Board of
10 Commissioners does not support the nominee, then, the Navajo Nation President
11 shall nominate another nominee.

12 5. The appointment shall be effective upon confirmation by the Navajo Nation
13 Council.

14 ~~B.C.~~ The Navajo Nation Veterans Administration shall perform its assigned functions as
15 identified in its approved Plan of Operation.

16 ...

17 ...
18 **§ 1032. Responsibility and Authority**

19 ...

20 A. In carrying out its responsibilities and Administration, through the Executive Director, is
21 authorized to:

22 ...

23 7. Provide administrative support, and technical assistance, meeting spaces, access to
24 Navajo Nation Veteran facilities, and serve as an advisor to the Navajo Nation
25 Veterans Advisory Council Board of Commissioners.

26 ...

27 **§ 1033. Navajo Housing Program**

28

29 C. Duties and Responsibilities of the Navajo Veterans Housing Program shall include
30 administering the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Housing Program Policies and

1 Procedures. The Veterans Administration Housing Program Policies and Procedures shall be
2 approved by the Health, Education and Human Services Committee, upon the
3 recommendation of the Navajo Nation Veterans ~~Advisory Council~~ Board of Commissioners.

4 ...

5 **Article Four. Navajo Nation Veterans Board of Commissioners ~~Advisory Council~~**

6
7 **§ 1034. Navajo Nation Veterans Board of Commissioners ~~Advisory Council~~**
8 **Establishment**

9 A. The Navajo Nation Veterans Board of Commissioners ~~Advisory Council~~ is established
10 under the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation government.

11 B. The purpose and authority of the Veterans Board of Commissioners ~~Advisory Council~~ is
12 to ~~provide policy advice to the President of the Navajo Nation~~ recommend and advise
13 any changes relating to funding, veterans housing, Navajo Nation Veterans
14 Administration, policies, regulations, and other concerns relating to veterans to the
15 Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council and the
16 Navajo Nation President, regarding veteran issues and concerns.

17 C. Membership; selection; Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson; terms of office; ex-officio

18 1. A Navajo Nation Veterans ~~Advisory Council~~ Board of Commissioners is
19 established consisting of ~~eleven~~ ten (10) members and one (1) ex-officio member.

20 2. The ~~Advisory Council~~ Board of Commissioners shall consist of ~~the ten (10)~~ Agency
21 Veteran Commanders or a Veteran selected by their respective Agency Veterans
22 Organization through resolution. The Navajo Nation Veterans Board of
23 Commissioners shall consist of ten (10) members, one (1) female and one (1) male
24 selected by each Agency, as the designated voting members with the
25 Administration Executive Director acting as a non-voting member. All
26 Commissioners shall be confirmed by the Health, Education and Human Services
27 Committee.

28 3. All ten (10) as the Commissioners shall be voting members.

29 4. Ex-officio member is a non-voting member and shall be selected either from the
30 Blue Star Family or Gold Star Family. The ex-officio member shall be selected

1 and/or removed by the Board of Commissioners through resolution with a
2 majority vote of a full-quorum.

3 ~~3. 5. The Advisory Council~~ Board of Commissioners shall select from its voting members
4 a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson.

5 6. Commissioners and the ex-officio member shall serve a two-year term.
6 Commissioners and the ex-officio member shall serve until their successors are
7 appointed.

8 ~~4. Designated members shall be Veterans selected and/or removed by the respective~~
9 ~~Chapter Veteran Organizations.~~

10 ~~5. 7. The Council~~ Commissioners and the ex-officio member shall meet on a quarterly
11 bi-monthly basis and as necessary. Commissioners and the ex-officio shall receive
12 a meeting stipend, and travel expense reimbursement pursuant to Navajo Nation
13 laws, policies and procedures and budget.

14 8. The Board of Commissioners shall have a recurring budget for meeting stipends,
15 travel expense reimbursement, and administrative support for all meetings.

16 D. The Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Executive Director shall provide
17 administrative support, technical assistance, meeting spaces, access to Navajo Nation
18 Veteran facilities, and serve as an advisor to the Navajo Nation Veterans Board of
19 Commissioners.

20 E. Authority of the Board of Commissioners

21 1. To recommend appointment of the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration
22 Executive Director to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee and
23 the Navajo Nation Council for confirmation after the Navajo Nation President
24 nominates an Executive Director. To recommend termination of the Navajo Nation
25 Veterans Administration Executive Director to the Health, Education and Human
26 Services Committee and the Navajo Nation Council with notice given to the Navajo
27 Nation President.

28 2. To recommend to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee to
29 approve the rules, policies, and procedures for the Board of Commissioners and the
30

1 Navajo Nation Veterans Administration in accordance with the laws of the Navajo
2 Nation.

3 3. To recommend to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee and the
4 Navajo Nation Council for any modification to legislation, or address any concerns
5 relating to veterans and veterans services with notice provided to the Navajo Nation
6 President.

7 4. To review and make recommendations for funding and budget matters of the Board
8 of Commissioners and the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration.

9
10 **§ 1035. Oversight**

11 The Navajo Nation authorizes the establishment of the Navajo Nation Veterans
12 Administration, the Navajo Nation Veterans Housing Program, and the Navajo Nation
13 Veterans ~~Advisory Council~~ Board of Commissioners. Legislative oversight shall be provided
14 by the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council, which
15 will have final approval of the respective plans of operation.

16
17 **§ 1036. Amendments**

18 These ~~is~~ Articles may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Navajo Nation Council
19 upon recommendation from the Navajo Nation Veterans Boards of Commissioners ~~Advisory~~
20 ~~Council~~.

21 ****

22
23
24 **SECTION FOUR. DIRECTIVE TO AMEND PLANS OF OPERATION**

25 Divisions, departments, programs, and organizations of which these amendments affect, shall
26 within 45 days of approval of this legislation shall amend their respective Plans of Operation
27 to ensure conformity with these amendments.

28
29 **SECTION FIVE. EFFECTIVE DATE**

30 A. This legislation shall become effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221(B).

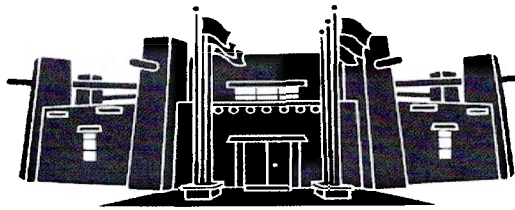
1 B. Amendments enacted herein at 2 N.N.C. §§ 1031(B) and 1034(E)(1) pertaining to the
2 Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Executive Director shall take effect with the
3 appointment of a new Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Executive Director after
4 the six-year term of the current Executive Director's contract has expired or the current
5 Executive Director is otherwise no longer contracted as Executive Director, whichever
6 event transpires first.

7
8 **SECTION SIX. CODIFICATION**

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


12
13 **SECTION SEVEN. SAVINGS CLAUSE**

14 Should any provisions of this legislation be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme
15 Court, or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation
16 Supreme Court, those portions of this legislation which are not determined invalid shall remain
17 the law of the Navajo Nation.



MEMORANDUM

TO : Kee Allen Begay, Jr., Sponsor
24th Navajo Nation Council

FROM: 
Chad Abeyta, Attorney
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE : January 23, 2022

RE : **AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND ORDER, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' 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**

As requested, I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. The resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. Regarding substance, as with any legislation, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge. Please ensure that this particular resolution request is precisely what you want.

If you are satisfied with the proposed resolution, please sign it as "sponsor" and submit it to the Office of Legislative Services where it will be given a tracking number and sent to the Office of the Speaker for assignment. If the proposed 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'.

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



LEGISLATION NO: _0021-22_

SPONSOR: Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

TITLE: An Act Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, Law and Order, and Naabik'íyáti' 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

***Date posted:* January 27, 2022 at 6:27PM**

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.: 0021-22

SPONSOR: Honorable Kee Allen Begay Jr.

TITLE: An Act Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, Law and Order, and Naabik'iyáti' 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

Posted: January 27, 2022 at 6:27 PM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: February 1, 2022

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	1.) Edward Wagner Jr. 2.) Calvin Charlie 3.) Northern Navajo Veterans Organization
Comments Opposing	1.) Billy Goodman Jr.
Comments/Recommendations	<i>None</i>

VSRedhorse
Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services

February 3, 2022; 9:00 AM
Date/Time

0021-22

Edward Wagner <wagneredward676@gmail.com>

Tue 2/1/2022 1:11 PM

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

Good Evening,

I am in support of Honorable Kee Allen Begay's Legislation 0021-22

Thank you,

Edward Wagner JR

Many Farms Veteran

Wagneredward676@gmail.com

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0021-22

Calvin Charlie <ccharlie4969@gmail.com>

Tue 2/1/2022 1:11 PM

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

Yá'át'ééh, to all concerned, hereby the TeecNosPos King/Clark CVO stands with the proposed legislation. We need a director who works all parties and not just answer to one. The veterans want input on the selection of a director so any changes in policies and procedures that happen they had apart of the process.

We endorse the change of the Veterans Advisory council to Board of Commissioners in that the veterans will not be pushed aside comments as "You are just an advisory council we can listen to you but don't have to use it". Áhé'héé

Calvin Charlie, TeecNosPos CVO cmdr

Sent from my iPhone

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NORTHERN NAVAJO VETERANS' ORGANIZATION

Commander: Elouise Brown

Co-Commander: Vern Lee

Vice Commander: Calvin Charley

Secretary: Vacant

Resolution of Northern Navajo Veterans Organization

NNVO-01-22

NORTHERN NAVAJO VETERANS' ORGANIZATION SUPPORTS LEGISLATION RELATING TO HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND ORDER, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING AND APPROVING 2 N.N.C. §§ 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036 RELATING TO THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

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 supports** changing the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council to become the Navajo Nation Veterans Board of Commissioners with the following authority: To recommend appointment and termination of the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Executive Director to the Navajo Nation Council upon recommendation by the Health Education and Human Services Committee and the Navajo Nation President; and
6. The **Northern Navajo Veterans Organization supports** Veterans Board of Commissioners to recommend to the Health, Education and Human Services Committee to approve the rules, policies and procedures for the Board of Commissioners and the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration in accordance with the laws of the Navajo Nation, to review and make recommendations for funding and budget matters, to recommend and advise any changes relating to funding, housing, and to recommend any amendments, adoption, or address any concerns relating to veterans; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

NORTHERN NAVAJO VETERANS' ORGANIZATION SUPPORTS LEGISLATION RELATING TO HEALTH EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, LAW AND ORDER, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING AND APPROVING 2 N.N.C. §§ 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036 RELATING TO THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS' ADVISORY COUNCIL



NORTHERN NAVAJO VETERANS' ORGANIZATION

Commander: Elouise Brown

Co-Commander: Vern Lee

Vice Commander: Calvin Charley

Secretary: Vacant

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 37 in Favor; 0 Opposed and 2 Abstain on the 14th of January 2022.

Motioned: Joe Ramone
Seconded: Jerry Todacheneie

Elouise Brown 14 JAN 2022
Commander, Elouise Brown

0021-22 Comments on Kee Allen Begay Jr. Legislations

Billy Goodman <dookdoosliid@hotmail.com>

Reply all |

Yesterday, 12:48 PM

comments

1. These proposed legislations in regards to the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration (NNVA) are derived from Kee Allen Begay Jr.'s personal animus towards the NNVA Executive Director. He collaborated with some members of the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council (NNVAC) members to produce such vindictive legislation
 - a. In August 2021, at Shonto Chapter Veterans Organization monthly meeting, delegate Herman Daniels, Jr. said that he is working with Kee Allen Begay, Jr. to remove the NNVA Executive Director. Mr. Daniels is on the Resources and Development Committee, along with Mr. Begay.
 - b. When consulting with the NNVAC members at Chinle (Dec 14, 2021), Mr. Begay and several members of the NNVAC discussed the possibility of removing the NNVA Executive Director when this legislation is approved. They wanted the NNVA Executive Director's removal as soon as the legislation is signed, or as stating "effective immediate." Legal counsel on-the-line dissuaded them.
 - c. Several members of the NNVAC have been serving on and off the NNVAC since the inception of the NNVAC. They have been obstructive and challenged the last two administrations and have intensified with the hiring of James Zweilein, the current Executive Director.
 - i. Mr. Zweirlien is not Navajo. This legislation is designed to prevent the hiring of non-Navajos.
 - ii. The NNVAC (Northern, Central, Ft. Defiance) members have dogged the Executive Director into revealing his contract with the Navajo Nation.
 - iii. They also want legal representation to not counsel them on legislations, policies, etc., but for litigious representation towards the administration.
 - iv. They have circumvented the administration and colluded with the Navajo Nation Council membership to oppose and not cooperate with the NNVA to develop and implement policies to benefit the veterans.
 - d. Commissioners: I agree with the language that the HEHS Committee affirm the Commissioners. I do not recommend the sitting members of the NNVAC be the members of the proposed "Commissioners." Some have been members of the NN Veterans Advisory Committee since the inception of the NNVAC. They have not performed their stated duties and have not been productive at anything. Changing their titles to "Commissioners" will not help at all.
1. In 2017, the Veterans Housing Program (VHP) was halted. The NNC stipulated that the VHP audit findings. They were not adequately addressed, nor resolved until Mr. Zweirlien was hired.
 - a. Each agency had a Housing Specialist, Carpenters, and Trade Specialists (electricians, plumbers) to construct homes. ALL positions were eliminated. Only one Housing program position was preserved. The position is located at the Central. Only ONE position was funded.
 - b. Mr. Zweirlien and his staff at central addressed the audit findings and the VHP resumed in late 2021. The budget for housing specialists was approved for fiscal year 2022.
 - c. For several years, the VHP was run by the Executive Director because he and Mr. Dickerson were the only people heading the housing program. Kee Allen Begay, Jr. objected to this because the Director's name was associated with the VHP.
 - d. With the newly hired Housing Program personnel, the position that Mr. Begay (Charles-Newton) is now legislating is already in effect.
2. Western Agency Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) budget is created and is using a singular (ONE) account for all 18 Chapters.
 - a. NO CARRY-OVER is the objective. Last Year (FY'21), over One million dollars went unused and reverted as carry-over. This year (FY'22), all allocated monies for assistance has been used.
 - b. EQUITY is a must. Any and all applicants for assistance are given equal consideration. Whether, the veteran is living on or off the Navajo Nation, they have the same right and access to VTF monies.
 - c. The Executive Director has leeway on how to administer the budget. He has given the Chapter Veteran Organizations (CVO) options on how to receive their VTF funds. Because the agency CVOs opted for a singular account, doesn't prohibit the CVO from asking for their own business unit. Mr. Begay's language may sound that he is speaking for ALL Chapters. He is not and we object to this impression.

BILLY GOODMAN, Jr.
Master Sergeant, USAF (retired)
Western Navajo Agency Veterans Organization, Commander
Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council, Western Agency Representative
Billy.goodman.1r@gmail.com

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**THE NAVAJO NATION
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SPONSOR: Honorable Kee Allen Begay Jr.

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

VSRedhorse

**Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services**

February 9, 2022; 2:00 PM

Date/Time

COMMENTS: 2/7/22

LEGISLATION NO: _0021-22__ SPONSOR: Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

TITLE: An Act Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, Law and Order, and Naabik'iyáti' 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.

A. Selection of Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Executive Director.

I support the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Executive Director position needed amended to make it "at will position" of the Navajo Nation. The selection process is acceptable, just need to be complied with criterions. See attachment RFP (3 pages).

1. Back in 1990s or early 2000, the NNC proposed to make Division Director a contract position, but DOJ issued Legal Opinion that Division Director position cannot contracted out due to liability matters.
2. Navajo Veterans Administration (NVA) Executive Director has far less responsibility than the Division Director. Division Director has multiply and complex contracted program funds, supervises multiply mid-managers staff and responsible for some highly valuable equipment. NVA Executive Director only has one program, assisting veteran with application for VA Veterans' benefits and service, and managed a single source of funding (NN general and trust funds). NVA Central Office has Deputy Director, Administrative Management Specialist and Office Specialist at NVA Central Office, and 5 Agency Offices are staff with Veterans Service Officer, Administrative Management Specialist and Office Specialist. The total NVA staff is less than 30 people.

B. Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council.

There is none prevents the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council to advise the President and the Navajo Nation Council improve and/or implement Navajo Veterans Services.

1. The Navajo Veterans Advisory Council (NVAC) is an Ad-Hoc Citizen Committee with no set criteria to advise the President of Navajo Nation on situations with veterans in communities, individual veteran's needs, identified needed veterans' services, etc. NVAC is grassroot Veterans to advise the President to formulate action plan on veterans matters for legislation action and Navajo Veterans Administration (NVA) implementation veterans' services. This process is absent in the current Navajo Veterans Administration.

The criteria for appointment of the Veterans Advisory Council:

- a) Veteran served in Armed Forces of the United States (VA Form DD214 Discharge Certificate).
- b) Registered voter of respective chapter.
- c) Member of Chapter Veterans' Organization within the respective Agency.
- d) Agency Veterans Organization selects two (male and female) veterans and referral the names to the President to appoint veteran to NVAC membership.

2. Complication of Navajo Veterans Advisory Council.

Navajo Veterans Advisory Council (NVAC) is two (2) headed serpent, five (5) male and five (5) female. There is a distinct division line of gender in the representation. In the original drafted Navajo Nation Veterans Act (Act), only has seven (7) Veterans Advisory Council members. Requirement: the appointee be a veteran with honorable discharged veteran (without gender distinction). The membership was increased to ten (10) members without clarification in the final passage of the Act. Veterans Advisory Council is quasi-public advocate group to advise NN President on veterans concerns and makes recommendations (no legislative authority) for President's veteran legislation and/or actions. In that, they should not be subject to plan of operation or by-law which inhibit a member to express freely. NVAC should only adhere to standard ethical conduct laws of NN and general parliamentary procedures for meeting records and attendance.


- a) There are evidences of no collaboration existed within the Advisory Council, everyone is for themselves and/or collusion against one another.
- b) NVA Executive Director, contracted position, is non-voting member to Veterans Advisory Council. Executive Director uses the Advisory Council to approve change and develop policy and procedures (Advisory Council has no legislative authority), causes negative impacts of bias and favoritism toward the administration over veterans' beneficiaries needs and concerns.
- c) The spouse of NVA Executive Director (non-voter of NVAC) is appointed to serve on NVAC which is unacceptable practice of NN Ethic Laws of the Board and Commission, and the Navajo Culture and Tradition.
- d) None existed OP/VP and NNC collaboration. NVAC is supposedly be the voice of the grassroot Navajo veterans' concerns to the President, and OP/VP to collaborate with legislature to enact applicable Navajo Veterans' legislations, programs and services, and representation to develop advocacy strategic in behalf of the Navajo Veterans to full use of federal veterans' benefits and services which the Navajo veterans are entitled. President appointed NVA Executive Director, non-Navajo Tribe, to National Native American and Alaska Native Veterans Advisory Committee of U.S. Veterans Administration, without consultation with NNC. Executive Director does not speak Navajo language, have absolutely lack of knowledge on Navajo cultures and traditions as use by the Navajo Veterans for their maintain quality of life.
- e) Advisory Council members are addressed as Agency Commander or Co-Commander. Navajo Nation Veterans Act only recognizes Chapter Veterans

Organizations (CVO), does not mention Agency Veterans Organizations. Agency Veterans Organizations were established as ad-hoc committee before enactment of Navajo Veterans Act to assist Agency Veterans Administration to disseminate information to the veterans at the chapter level through the Agency meeting.

NAVAJO VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL TO REMAINED ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Navajo Veterans Advisory Council need to maintain neutral roll as an advocacy and advisor to the President and Legislature of Navajo Nation. The President in collaboration with the Navajo Nation Council amend, create and delete NN Veterans' Program policies and procedures, and initiates the intergovernmental contacts with the state and federal government entities, including state legislatures and congress, for veterans' benefits and services.

Enclosing, the whole Navajo Veterans Administration Program Service is in your hands. Do the right things to enhance the service to the Navajo veterans and surviving beneficiaries. Should you have question, you may contact me at (505) 486-5377, email: pjgeorge@citlink.net. Thank you, stay safe and healthy.

/s/ 

Paul J. George
Tse' Daa Kaan CVO

Shiprock, NM 87420



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 30, 2016

Communications Office
Office of the President and Vice President
Mihio Manus
Nicole Macias
928.871.7000

THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (6 YEAR CONTRACT)

The Navajo Nation Veterans Administration ("NNVA") is seeking proposals from qualified and experienced individuals for Executive Director (hereinafter referred to as "Director"). This individual will provide qualified and competent supervision and management of the NNVA at the request of the Office of the President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation.

NNVA / OPVP will consider proposals from interested individuals to accomplish these objectives.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The NNVA was established to help alleviate the shortage of services, programs, i.e. Health, Housing, Benefits and Claims, Education, etc. for eligible Navajo Veterans and Veterans in the Navajo Nation, and when appropriate, to promote or maintain the economic development of the Navajo Nation through programs and services provided.

For the past 40 years, NNVA (formerly Department of Navajo Veterans Affairs or "DNVA") has played a key role in bringing services and programs to all of Navajo Nation's Veterans and citizens. The Administration is dedicated to increase and maintain its level of excellence in work quality and performance through continuous improvements in all administrative, operational, logistical and support functions. This ensures that NNVA continuously provides better services for Navajo Veterans (i.e. Navajo Veterans Trust Funds) and Veterans.

SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of services set forth in this RFP represents an outline of the services which NNVA anticipates the successful individual will perform, and is presented for the primary purpose of allowing NNVA to compare qualifications. The precise scope of duties and responsibilities shall be negotiated between NNVA and the successful individual selected.

NNVA's primary objective for this RFP is to engage an individual to provide qualified and competent services to NNVA. The individual selected must agree to the following conditions:

- Provide qualified, competent supervision and management to NNVA.
- Director will inform personnel of the specific duties, length of assignment, and any specific skills or abilities required.
- Please review and understand job duties and responsibilities as follows:
 1. Under administrative and operational direction of the President of the Navajo Nation, perform work of considerable difficulty with responsibility to direct and manage the NNVA with the assistance of each respective service area leadership.
 2. Shall set administrative goals through a 3 to 6 year plan while considering priority goals, overhead cost to implement and administer priority projects, create and implement a strategic management plan.
 3. Provide current up to date information to the President of the Navajo Nation and the Navajo Nation Veterans Advisory Council (during quarterly meetings).
 4. Provide information on administrative and operational cost impact. With the overall management process of the administration's overall administrative, operational and logistical management, such as program or projects, fiscal/property management, contract and grants administration, personnel management, records management and the development of various reporting procedures and guidelines.
 5. Organize, implement and coordinate administrative activities.
 6. Collaborate and supervise program or project staff to achieve organizational goals and objectives.
 7. Develop and administer the program's annual budget; prepare and manage Budget Status and Expenditure reports; perform budget adjustments and transfers as needed; ensure each agency complies with funding requirements, provides accounting and expenditure control; develops and implements internal control mechanisms, procedures and guidelines to maintain fiscal accountability; work with J.D. Edwards Financial Management Information Systems; provide clarification and interpretation of Budget Instructions and Policies manual and other pertinent laws regarding fiscal matters; review and comply with Navajo Nation Procurement Laws.
 8. Monitor grant proposals to acquire funds to support Navajo Veterans benefits and services and other applicable services.
 9. Communicate regularly on program and/or project activities

- Execution of a contract for up to six (6) years to provide professional, qualified and competent services to NNVA.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Interested individuals should observe the following requirements in the preparation and submission of proposals:

1. One (1) original and three (3) copies of the Proposal should be delivered in a sealed envelope to the President of the Navajo Nation:

Office of the President and Vice President
P.O. Box 7440
Window Rock, AZ 86515.

Proposals will be received until position is filled. Faxed or e-mailed responses will not be considered. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will result in the NNVA's rejection of the Proposal.

NOTE: Postmark dates will not be considered as the basis for meeting any submission requirement.

2. Proposals must include a cover letter signed by an individual authorized to enter into a contract with the OPVP/NNVA, acknowledging that the individual agrees to be bound by all terms and conditions of the RFP and affirming that all information contained in the Proposal is true and accurately portrays all aspects of the services to be provided and qualification of the Director.
3. Any proposals that does not adhere to this format and which does not address each requirement and the scope of work within the RFP may be deemed non-responsive and rejected on that basis.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Individuals submitting a Proposal may not contact members of Navajo Veterans Advisory Council or other staff of NNVA;
2. All requests for interpretation or clarification of any term in the RFP should be directed to the Office of the President or Vice-President via e-mail at fjohnson@navajo-nsn.gov. Position is open until filled.
3. NNVA shall not be liable for any pre-contract costs incurred by any individuals participating in the selection process.
4. All matters set forth in a Proposal are matters of public record and shall become the property of NNVA and may be disclosed by NNVA in accordance with statutory requirements or otherwise as determined by NNVA or OPVP.
5. NNVA is not exempt from the payment of excise and sales taxes imposed by the Federal Government and/or the State or the Navajo Nation. Proposers remain liable; however, for applicable taxes or other taxes which may apply.

In reviewing all proposals, NNVA reserves the right to:

1. Reject any and all Proposals received in response to this request;
2. Negotiate the fees and charges contained in any Proposal, and is not obligated to accept a Proposal based upon the demands set

forth by the proposer;

3. Accept a proposal based on considerations other than costs;
4. Waive or modify any irregularities or informalities in Proposals received;
5. Award contracts for quality and professional services in any manner necessary to serve the best interest of NNVA and;
6. Request additional information as determined necessary.

Respondents should also be aware of the following:

1. Failure to perform to the satisfaction of NNVA or OPVP will result in termination of the contract upon fifteen (15) days written notice by NNVA.
2. Qualified individuals may be required to interview with OPVP/NNVA as it deems necessary.
3. The agreement between NNVA and the selected individual will be evidenced by a written contract (the "Contract"), which shall incorporate this RFP, the Proposal and any related correspondence. In executing such Contract, the selected individual agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of this RFP, and that all representations, warranties and commitments in the Proposal and related correspondence are contractual obligations. In the event of any conflict in the terms and conditions between the RFP, Proposal and any related correspondence, the RFP shall control.
4. The term of the Contract shall be six (6) years between NNVA and the successful respondent. NNVA reserves the right to extend this contract for a period up to the full original contract term or parts thereof.
5. It is the policy of NNVA to contribute to the establishment, preservation and strengthening of THE PLAN OF THE OPERATION OF THE NNVA. NNVA encourages Navajo Preference and Veterans Preference; however, this solicitation is NOT restricted to residents of the Navajo Nation but shall be willing to relocate at the expense of the Proposer. Proposers are required to provide a copy of their current certification of qualifications, documents and all other applicable documents as required by the NNVA/OPVP with their bid.

GOVERNING LAW

The review of this RFP will be reviewed in compliance with applicable Navajo Nation laws such as the Navajo Nation Business Opportunity Act.

