## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Tracking No. 0254-20

DATE: October 9, 2020

## TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING 2 N.N.C. §§ 851858, NAVAJO-HOPI LAND COMMISSION

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, will amend the statutory plan of operation for the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission set forth in the Navajo Nation Code at 2 N.N.C. §§ 851-858.

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.
$\qquad$
proposed navajo nation council resolution Navajo Nation Council $24^{\text {th }}$ NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Second Year, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. $\qquad$ 0254-20

## AN ACTION

RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER, NAABIK'ÍYÅTI' AND NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING 2 N.N.C. §§ 851-858, NAVAJO-HOPI LAND COMMISSION

## BE IT ENACTED:

## SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

A. The Law and Order Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council with authority 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. §601(B)(14).
B. The Naa'bik 'íyáti' Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council, 2 N.N.C. §700(A), and all proposed legislations requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council are assigned to the Committee. 2 N.N.C. § 164 (A)(9).
D. The Naa'bik'íyáti' Committee is specifically empowered as the oversight committee for commissions under the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation, including the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission. 2 N.N.C. § 701 (5).
C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation with the authority to enact positive law of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102 (A) and 164 (A).

## SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

A. The Navajo Nation Council established the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission within the Legislative Branch as a commission of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 851 (A).
B. The Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Plan of Operations has not been comprehensively updated since 1989.
C. The Navajo-Hopi Land Commission recommends that its Plan of Operation, codified at 2 N.N.C. §§ 851-858, be amended as set forth in NHLCD-10-19, attached as Exhibit A.

## SECTION THREE. AMENDING 2 N.N.C. §§ 851-858

The Navajo Nation hereby amends Title 2, Chapter 3, Subchapter 11, Article 1 of the Navajo Nation Code as follows:

Title 2. Navajo Nation Government
Chapter 3. Legislative Branch
Subchapter 11. Boards and Commissions
Article 1. Navajo-Hopi Land Commission

## § 851. Establishment; purposes

A. The Navajo-Hopi Land Commission ("Commission") is hereby established within the Legislative Branch.
B. It is the purpose of the Commission to:

1. Monitor, collect, and update information on any and all land use issues between the Navajo Nation, and the Hopi Tribe, Southern Paiute Tribe and any claimants in and to lands within the area described in the Act of June 14, 1934 (48 Stat. 960).
2. Initiate the acquisition, and $\$$ speak and act for the Navajo Nation with respect to the land selection and land exchange provisions of P.L. 96-305.

Page $\mathbf{2}$ of $\mathbf{7}$
3. Speak and act on behalf of the Navajo Nation and advocate at the local, regional, and national levels on issues related to Navajo Partitioned Lands (NPL), Hopi Partitioned Lands (HPL) (on behalf of Navajo families living on HPL), Former Bennett Freeze Area (Navajo-Hopi land issues), Nahata Dziil, lands acquired using P.L. 96-305, and the Southern Paiute Tribe.
4. Establish Rehabilitation Trust Fund and Escrow Fund program budget policies.
5. Speak and act for the Navajo Nation on any and all matters relating to the well-being of impacted communities.
§ 852. Membership; selection; Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson; term of office; ex-officio members
A. The Commission shall consist of nine (9) regular voting members and two (2) exofficio members who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council with the approval of the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. The Commission shall have the-autherity to establish subeommittees as deemed appropriate to provide-advisory input from eitizens, professionals, federal and other non-elected sourees.
B. The Commission shall consist of:

1. Nine voting members of the Navajo Nation Council representing areas affected by the Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute-from each of the following areas:
a. To ${ }^{\prime}$ Nanees Dizi
b. Nahata Dziil
c. Teesto, Whitecone
d. Coppermine, K'aibii'to, Tonalea, Bodaway/Gap
e. Tsah Bii Kin, Shonto
f. Jeddito
g. Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake
h. Hard Rock, Forest Lake, Pinon, Blck Mesa, Whippoorwill
i. Tachee/Blue Gap, Low Mountain

Page 3 of 7
2. All members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and shall serve at the pleasure of the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.
3. The Ageney Superintendent, Bureau-of Indian Affairs, of Tuba City Ageney and Crownpoint Ageney Navajo Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office, Office of Legislative Counsel, Navajo Land Department and Navajo Nation tribat employees, when called upon, shall provide technical assistance input to the Commission.
C. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Commission shall be selected by the Commission.
D. Commission members shall serve a term of office coinciding with the term of office of members of the Navajo Nation Council and until their successors are appointed.
E. The President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation shall serve as ex-officio members of the Commission.

## § 853. Powers

A. General. The Commission shall have all powers necessary and proper to carry out the purposes set forth in 2 N.N.C. § 851.
B. Enumerated Powers. The Commission is hereby authorized and directed:

1. To advise the President of the Navajo Nation concerning all matters relating to land use conflicts between the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe, and any claimants in and to lands within the areas described in the Act of June 14, 1934 (48 Stat. 960).
2. To speak and act for behalf of the Navajo Nation with respect to the land selection and land exchange provisions of P.L. 96-305 by making such selections and approving or disapproving any proposed exchanges, subject to the limitations set forth in resolution CN-69-80.

Page 4 of 7
3. Shall provide direction to and appoint two members to the Joint Commission as specified in the Intergovernmental Compact between the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe.
4. Provide for the compensation of the Commission members for meeting attendance per the rate set in the meeting policies.
5. To advise and meet with communities that are directly affected by the land dispute between the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe.
6. To act and speak on all matters and recommend legislation relating to Navajo Partitioned Lands (NPL), Hopi Partitioned Lands (HPL) (on behalf of Navajo families living on HPL), Former Bennett Freeze Area (NavajoHopi land issues), Nahata Dziil, lands acquired using P.L. 96-305, and the Southern Paiute Tribe.
7. Shall initiate and recommend grazing, homesite leasing, housing development, rights-of-way and other land development policies and refer to appropriate Standing Committees for approval.
8. Approve energy development and set rental rates on lands that were converted to trust lands with respect to the land selection and land exchange provisions of P.L. 96-305.
9. Develop policies and monitor the Rehabilitation Trust Fund and Escrow funds.
10. To serve as the oversight commission for the functions of the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office.
11. Negotiate and meet with Hopi Tribe and Southern Paiute Tribe on matters under the Commission's authorities.
12. Navajo projects initiated by the Office of Navajo-Hopi Indian Relocation will be transferred to the Commission upon the eventual phase out, if any, of the Office.

[^0]Meetings shall be held on the first and third Thursday of each month or on the call of the Chairperson of the Commission, the President of the Navajo Nation, or upon written request of any five (5) members of the Commission. At any meeting, a quorum shall consist of six (6) five (5) members.

## § 855. Procedure

Until such time as the Navajo Nation Council adopts procedures and rules for the eonduet of Commission business, the The Commission is empowered to develop its own procedure for the conduct of meetings, provided that all formal substantive action shall be taken by written resolution duly certified by the presiding officers, or memorialized by written memorandum setting forth the action taken and signed by the presiding officer and filed with the Centrat Records Management Department of the Navajo Nation. Mintes Journals shall be kept of all meetings and shall be officially recorded by the Office of Legislative Services.

## § 856. Staff

A. There shall be a Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office under the direction of the President of the Navajo Nation. The President of the Navajo Nation shall appoint a staff assistant an Executive Director who shall head the Land Commission Office who shall serve at the pleasure of the President of the Navajo Nation.
B. The Commission shall utilize the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office in performing its assigned functions.

## § 857. Reports

The Commission shall report quarterly and in writing to the Navajo Nation Council concerning matters relating to the land use conflict and agreements with the Hopi Tribe.

## § 858. Subcommittees

The Commission is authorized and-direeted to-establish at least one-Citizen's Advisory Subcommittee to provide advice and assistance to the Commission. The members of the Page 6 of 7

Citizen's Advisory Committee shall be non-eleeted private citizens who reside in or near the lands affeeted by P.L. $96-305$ and such other private eitizens as the Commission and the President of the Navajo-Nation may-deem appropriate-to establish subcommittees as deemed appropriate to provide advisory input from citizens, professionals, federal and other non-elected sources.

## SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE

This action of the Navajo Nation Council herein shall be effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221(B). Further, the "President's authority to sign into law or veto legislation shall be deemed waived if not exercised within ten calendar days after certification of the legislation by the Speaker or Speaker Pro Tem and the legislation shall be deemed enacted and become effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §221." 2 N.N.C. § 1005(C)(12).

## SECTION FIVE. CODIFICATION

The provisions of these amendments of the Navajo Nation Code shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall incorporate such amendments in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.

## SECTION SIX. SAVINGS CLAUSE

Should any provision of these amendments be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, those amendments that are not determined invalid shall remain the law of the Nation.

Page 7 of 7

## AN ACTION

## THE NAVAJO-HOPI LAND COMMISISON SUPPORTS AND RECOMMENDS TO THE <br> NAABIK'TYATI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL THE AMENDMENTS TO THE NAVAJO-HOPI LAND COMMISSION PLAN OF OPERATION

## BE IT ENACTED:

## SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

A. The Navajo Nation Council established the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission within the Legislative Branch as a commission of the Navajo Nation Council. 2. N.N.C. § 851 (A) (2009).
B. The Navajo Nation Council further established the members to be appointed by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and shall serve at the pleasure of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee now the Naabi' iyati' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. $\S 852$ (B) (2)
C. The Navajo Nation Council established the purpose of the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission to:

1. Monitor, collect, and update information on any and all land use conflicts between the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe, and any claimants in and to lands described in the Act of June 14, 1934 ( 48 Stat. 960 ). 2 N.N.C. $\S 851(B)(1)$
2. Speak and act for the Navajo Nation with respect to the land selection and land exchange provisions of P.L. 96-305. 2 N.N.C. §851(B)(2)

## SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

A. The Plan of Operation for the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission was last generally updated on December 15, 1989. CD -68-89
B. The amendments to the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission is in the best interest of the families impacted by the Navajo and Hopi Indian Land Settlement Act and the Navajo-Hopi Indian Relocation Amendment Act of 1980, Public Law 96-305.

## SECTION THREE. AMENDMENTS TO THE NAVAJO-HOPI LAND COMMSSION PLAN OF OPERATION

The Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Hereby Supports and Recommends to the Naabik'iyati' Committee and the Navajo Nation Council the Amendments to the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Plan of Operation

## CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission of the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting held at Nahata Dzill (Sanders), Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed, this $5^{\text {th }}$ day of December, 2019.


Honorable Otto Tso, Chairman
Navajo Hopi Land Commission

Motion: Honorable Jimmy Yellowhair
Second: Honorable Thomas Walker, Jr.
Chairman Otto Tso not voting

## 11. Boards and Commissions Article

## 1. Navajo-Hopi Land Commission

## United States Code

Navajo and Hopi tribes, settlement of rights and interests, see 25 U.S.C. $\$ 640$ d et seq.

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§ 851. Establishment;
purposes
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2. Initiate the acquisition, and Ispeak and act for the Navajo Nation with respect to the land selection and land exchange provisions of P.L. 96-305.
3. Speak and act on behalf of the Navajo Nation and advocate at the local, regional, and national levels on issues related to Navajo partitioned lands (NPL), Hopi Partitioned lands (HPL) (on behalf of Navajo families living on HPL), Former Bennett Freeze Area (Navajo-Hopi land issues), Nahata Dziil, acquired lands using P.L.96-305, and Southern Piaute Tribe.
4. Establish Rehabilitation Trust Fund and Escrow Fund program budget policies.
5. Speak and act for the Navajo Nation on any and all matters relating to the well-being of impacted communities.
§ 852. Membership; selection; Chairperson and Vice-chairperson; term of office; ex-officio members
A. The Commission shall consist of nine regular voting members and two ex-officio members who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council with the approval of the Naabik'iyati' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. The Commisoion shall have the-authority to establish subeomittees as deemed appropxiate to provide adwisoxy input from eitizens, profesoionals,
B. The Commission shall consist of:
6. Nine voting members of the Navajo Nation Council representing areas affected by the Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute- from each of the following areas:
a) To' Nanees Dizi
b) Nahata Dziil
c) Teesto, Whitecone
d) Coppermine, K'aibii'to, Tonalea, Bodaway/Gap
e) Tsah Bii Kin, Shonto
f) Jeddito
g) Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake
h) Hard Rock, Forest Lake, Pinon, Black Mesa, Whippoorwill
i) Tachee/Blue Gap, Low Mountain
7. All members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and shall serve at the pleasure of the Naabik'iyati' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.
8. The Navajo Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Navajo Hopi Indian Relocation Office, Navajo Department of Justice, Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office, Office of Legislative Counsel, Navajo Land Department, Agency Superintendent, Bureau-Of Indian Affairo, of tuba City Ageney and Crompoint Agency and Navajo Nation tribat employees, when called upon, shall provide technical imput assistance to the Commission.
C. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Commission shall be selected by the Commission.
D. Commission members shall serve a term of office coinciding with the term of office of members of the Navajo Nation Council and until their successors are appointed.
E. The President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation shall serve as ex-officio members of the Commission.
\$ 853. Powers
A. General. The Commission shall have all powers necessary and proper to carry out the purposes set forth in 2 N.N.C. $\$ 851$.
B. Enumerated Powers. The Commission is hereby authorized and directed:
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10. To speak and act fox on behalf of the Navajo Nation with respect to the land selection and land exchange provisions of P.I. 96305 by making such selections and approving or disapproving any proposed exchanges, subject to the limitations set forth in resolution CN-69-80.
11. Shall provide direction to and appoint two members to the Joint Commission as specified in the Intergovernmental Compact between the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe.
12. Provide for the compensation of the commission members for meeting attendance per rate set in the meeting policies.
13. To advise and meet with communities that are directly affected by land dispute between the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe;
14. To act and speak on all matters and recommend legislation relating to Navajo partitioned lands, Hopi Partitioned lands (on behalf of Navajo families living on HPI), Eormer Bennett Freeze Area (Navajo-Hopi land issues), Nahata Dziil, acquired lands through P.L. 96-305, and Southern Piaute Tribe.
15. Shall initiate and recommend grazing, homesite leasing, housing development, rights-of-way and other land development policies and refer to appropriate standing committees for approval.
16. Approve energy development, set rental rates on lands that were converted to trust land with respect to the land selection and land exchange provisions of P.L. 96-305
17. Develop policies and Monitor the Rehabilitation Trust Fund and Escrow funds.
18. To serve as the oversight commission for the functions of the Navajo Hopi Land Commission
19. Negotiate and meet with the Hopi Tribe and Southern Paitue Tribe on matters related to the oversight authorities.
20. Navajo projects initiated by the Office of Navajo Hopi Indian Relocation will be transferred to the commission upon the phase out of the office.

## § 854. Meetings

Meetings shall be held on the first and third Thursday of each month or on the call of the Chairperson of the Commission, the President of the Navajo Nation, or upon written request of any five members of the Commission.

At any meeting, a quorum shall consist of give five members.

## 855. Procedure

Until such time as the Navajo Nation Council adopts poeedures and rules for the eonduet of Commiosion business, Tthe Commission is empowered to develop its own procedure for the conduct of meetings, provided that all formal substantive action shall be taken by written resolution duly certified by the presiding officers, or memorialized by written memorandum setting forth the action taken and signed by the presiding officer and filed with the Central Records Department of the Navajo Nation. Minutes-Journals shall be kept of all meetings and shall be officially recorded by the Office of Legislative Services.

## § 856. Staff

A. There shall be a Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office under the direction of the President of the Navajo Nation. The President of the Navajo Nation shall appoint the Executive Director ataff assistant who shall head the Navajo Hopi Land Commission Office who shall serve at the pleasure of the President of the Navajo Nation.
B. The Commission shall utilize the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office in performing its assigned functions.

## § 857. Reports

The Commission shall report quarterly and in writing to the Navajo Nation Council concerning matters relating to the land use conflict and agreements with the Hopi Tribe.

## § 858. Subcommittees

| The-Gemmigsion is authorined and directed to establish at least Eitizen's Advisexy Subeemitee to provide-adviee and assistanee to Commiscion. The members of the Citizen's-Advisory Cemmittee shall -__ be non-elected private citizens whe resiele in ox neax the Iands-affeeted by P.E. <br> 96-305 and ruch othex private-eitizens-as the-Commission and the President of the Navajo Nation may deem-appropxiate. |  |
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The Commission shall have the authority to establish subcommittees as deemed appropriate to provide advisory input from citizens, professionals, federal and other non-elected sources.
(2 N.N.C. $\$ 330$ 1) and placed within the Legislative Branch.

ACAP-49-83, April 4, 1983. The name of the Commission was changed from "Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute Commission" to "Navajo-Hopi Land Commission." Also, a "purpose" section was added cau-7072, August 7, 1972.

CD-68-89, December 15, 1989. Amended generally. ACAP-49-83, April 4, 1983.

## Cross References

GSCF-10-91, January 9, 1991. CN-69-80, November 7, 1980.

CD-68-89, December 15, 1989.

## VOTE TALLY SHEET

NAVAJO-HOPI LAND COMMISSION
DATE: December 5, 2019
Regular Meeting

RESOLUTION: THE NAVAJO-HOPI LAND COMMISISON SUPPORTS AND RECOMMENDS TO THE NAABIK'IYATI' COMMITTEE AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL THE AMENDMENTS TO THE NAVAJOHOPI LAND COMMISSION PLAN OF OPERATION

Main Motion:
Motion: Honorable Jimmy Yellowhair Second: Honorable Thomas Walker, Jr.
Vote: 4-0-1 Chairperson Otto Tso not voting

| Commissioner | Yay | Nay |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Hon. Elmer Begay |  |  |
| Hon. Kee Allen Begay |  |  |
| Hon. Paul Begay |  |  |
| Hon. Herman Daniels | X |  |
| Hon. Vince R. James |  |  |
| Hon. Raymond Smith, Jr. | X |  |
| Hon. Otto Tso |  |  |
| Hon. Thomas Walker, Jr. | X |  |
| Hon. Jimmy Yellowhair | X |  |

Acknowledged:


Otto Tso, Chairperson
Navajo-Hopi Land Commission

Martha Ellison, Legislative Advisor
Navajo-Hopi Land Commission
Office of Legislative Services


## MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Otto Tso $24^{\text {th }}$ Navajo Nation Council

FROM:


DATE: $\quad$ October 9, 2020
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { SUBJECT: } & \text { AN ACTION RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' AND } \\ & \text { NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING } 2 \text { N.N.C. §§ 851-858, NAVAJO- } \\ & \text { HOPI LAND COMMISSION }\end{array}$

I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. Based on existing law and review of documents submitted, the resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. As with any action of government however, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge.

The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) based on the standing committees powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. $\S \S 301,401,501,601$ 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 ensure that his particular resolution request is precisely what you want. You are encouraged to review the proposed resolution to ensure that it is drafted to your satisfaction.

LEGISLATION NO: _0254-20 $\qquad$ SPONSOR: Otto Tso

TITLE: An Action Relating To Law And Order, Naabik'íyáti' And Navajo Nation Council; Amending 2 N.N.C. $\$ \S 851$ - 858, Navajo-Hopi Land Commission

## Date posted: October 9, 2020 at 5:12 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.


[^0]:    § 854. Meetings

