

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET
Tracking No. 0235-19

DATE: July 19, 2019

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; APPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE'S DINÉ BIZAAD SUBCOMMITTEE AND APPROVING THE CHAIR OF THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE'S DINÉ BIZAAD SUBCOMMITTEE

PURPOSE: Establishing the Diné Bizaad Subcommittee of the Naabik'íyáti' Committee and approving appointments to that Subcommittee.

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

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: 2308
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 7/28/19
Eligible for Action: 7/29/19

Health Education & Human Services Committee
Thence
Naa'bik'íyáti' Committee

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - First Year, 2019

INTRODUCED BY



(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0235-19

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; APPROVING THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE'S DINÉ BIZAAD
SUBCOMMITTEE AND APPROVING THE CHAIR OF THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI'
COMMITTEE'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE'S DINÉ
BIZAAD SUBCOMMITTEE

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation exercise oversight over education initiatives of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § (C)(2)
- B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 700.
- C. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee, as a Standing Committee, has the authority to establish a subcommittee subject to the requirements of 2 N.N.C. §186.

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the Navajo Nation Council finds it to be in the best interest of the Navajo People to establish the Naabik'íyáti' Committee's Diné Bizaad

1 Subcommittee to preserve, protect and restore the Diné Bizaad across the Navajo Nation.
2 See Exhibit A.

3
4 **SECTION THREE. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE**
5 **DINÉ BIZAAD SUBCOMMITTEE**

6 A. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee hereby establishes the Naabik'íyáti' Committee's Diné
7 Bizaad Subcommittee to:

- 8 1. Maintain our Diné Bizaad for all Diné People; and
- 9 2. Revitalize our Diné Bizaad for all those who seek to learn Diné Bizaad; and
- 10 3. Work with all Diné Bizaad teachers, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Diné
11 Department of Education language department, public schools, Diné College, Navajo
12 Technical University, Immersion Schools, Diné elders, Diné youth and the three branch
13 Chiefs of the Navajo Nation; and
- 14 4. Recognize the Navajo language as the official language of the Navajo Nation and
15 English as the "adopted" language of the Nation; and
- 16 5. Require and ensure that all mission statements of schools on the Navajo Nation to
17 include a commitment to teaching the Navajo language; and
- 18 6. Improve and support the Navajo Nation's certification of Navajo language teachers
19 with increased funding to the Navajo Oral Navajo Language Assessment (ODLA); and
- 20 7. Ensure that Diné Bizaad immersion projects with Diné College and Navajo Technical
21 University are adequately funded; and
- 22 8. Work on establishing a Diné Bizaad as an working, unpaid holiday; and
- 23 9. Work to maintain Diné Bizaad with any and all efforts with the Navajo Department
24 of Diné Education, the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs and all public schools on the
25 Navajo Nation.

26 B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee Diné Bizaad Subcommittee shall consist of six (6)
27 members; one member from each of the five Standing Committees plus on at large
28 member selected from the Naabik'íyáti' Committee.

1 C. All members of the Naabik'iyáti' Committee Diné Bizaad Subcommittee shall be
2 chosen by the Chair of the Naabik'iyáti' Committee subject to the approval of that
3 Committee.
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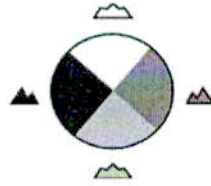
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6 **SECTION FOUR. APPOINTMENT**

7 A. The Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council hereby appoints and the Naabik'iyáti'
8 Committee hereby approves the following Delegates to serve, at the pleasure of the
9 Naabik'iyáti' Committee, on the Naabik'iyáti' Committee's Diné Bizaad
10 Subcommittee:

- 11 1.
12 2.
13 3.
14 4.
15 5.
16 6.
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18 **SECTION FIVE. SUBCOMMITTEE TERM**

19 The Naabik'iyáti' Committee Diné Bizaad Subcommittee shall exist until it's
20 assigned tasks are completed and shall report its recommendations to the Naabik'iyáti'
21 Committee, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 186.
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Policy Statement and Recommendations

Addressing Navajo Language Loss

Developed by the Navajo Studies Conference, Inc. Board of Directors

on behalf of

the 20th Navajo Studies Conference Community Discussion on Navajo Language Loss

Policy Statement: The Navajo Studies Conference, Inc. Board of Directors recommends a resolution to address Navajo language loss. This request is based on community input from the Navajo Studies Conference, Inc. membership at the 20th Navajo Studies Conference in Flagstaff, Arizona from May 29-30, 2015 and at the Navajo Language Summit at Diné College from May 22-24, 2017.

Background: A community dialogue was held to discuss the issue of language loss on the Navajo Nation of approximately 120 Navajo elders and youth. The discussion centered on potential causes of language loss and identified multiple solutions to increase language revitalization and maintenance. The community discussion notes were transcribed, coded and analyzed to capture the solutions to revitalize the Navajo language. Based on the community discussions, eight major themes were generated along with three major recommendations. The results of these recommendations were presented to the Diné Language Summit Attendees and they approved the three recommendations to be presented to the Navajo Nation Tribal Council during their Winter Session 2017.

The Navajo Studies Conference, Inc. Board of Directors hereby seeks continued community and leadership support in developing strategies to address Navajo language loss. Both an online and paper survey was distributed to over 1,000 members from November 2012 to October 2013. We received 133 survey responses from our membership. The results revealed that one of the primary topics of critical concern was Navajo language loss. Our membership acknowledges the number of Navajos who speak our language has been declining the past couple of decades. Based on the 2010 U.S. Census, they report that 2.2% of those residing on the Navajo Nation,

did not speak English at all and reported Navajo as their primary language. The percentage approximates to 3,726 monolingual Navajo speakers. To the Navajo Studies membership, this is an alarmingly low number of speakers and these recommendations are an effort to change this situation.

Authority of the Board: The Navajo Studies Conference, Inc. Board of Directors is charged with the responsibility of adopting policy statements based on our membership's concerns and we therefore offer the following recommendations.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION ONE:

Improve and support the Navajo Nation's certification of Navajo language teachers with increased funding to the Navajo Oral Navajo Language Assessment (ODLA).

Comments: [The] license from state of Arizona to teach the [Navajo] language[,] sometimes this evaluation process is not adequate for a fluent speaker who may not have a degree.

Background: The states of Arizona and New Mexico permit alternative teacher certification in Native languages (Native American Language Certification Policy R7-2-614J Arizona Department of Education [1]; New Mexico Statutes - School Personnel Act Section 22-10A-13[2]). For the Navajo Nation to adequately assess a person's comprehension in the Navajo language, the Department of Navajo Education is responsible for evaluating and assessing Navajo language teachers. Through the Oral Navajo Language Assessment (ODLA), the Office of Standards Curriculum and Assessment Development (OSCAD) staff assesses the applicant.

Funding Challenges: The OSCAD program is housed within the central office in Window Rock, Arizona. Currently, they have a small staff of four individuals (Program Manager, Administrative Assistant, and two Senior Education Specialists). The staff is responsible for assessing Navajo Language teachers for the entire Navajo Nation. In addition, the ODLA tool has remained unchanged since its original implementation. The tool only tests for comprehension of the language, but does not determine if a teacher can teach a second language.

Capacity Demands: The Navajo Nation is one of the largest tribal nations in the country with a small percentage of the population speaking the Navajo language. Based on recent demographics from the 2010 U.S. Census, there are 168,337 people residing on the nation. This is a decline from the 2000 U.S. Census of 175,228 people. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, there are 49,711 school aged children ranging in age from 5 to 18. In addition, OSCAD must cover five different school types on the Navajo Nation, which are 81 public schools, 34 Bureau of

Indian Education (BIE)-operated schools, 29 Grant/Contract (BIE-funded) schools, 8 Residential Halls, and 7 Private and Parochial Schools. In summary, there are a total of 144 schools with 8 residential halls and 7 private schools.

Recommendation: The Navajo Studies Conference, Inc. Board of Directors and its membership request that the OSCAD program hire a full-time assessment specialist to redesign the existing ODLA tool. The additional staffing should also include a budget to help ensure the assessment meets similar stringent requirements equal to that of the states of Arizona and New Mexico.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION TWO:

The Navajo Nation needs to recognize the Navajo language as the Nation's official language with English as its 'adopted' language.

Comment: Navajo does not have an official language – don't say its Navajo only;

Need to go full immersion. Navajo only speaking law?

Background: Currently, the Navajo Nation does not have an official language. Instead, the Navajo Nation has inserted Navajo language preferences into job descriptions for government employees working for the nation. The nation has also recently removed the required 'Navajo fluency' from its requirements for the Navajo Nation presidency.

Recommendation: The Navajo Studies Conference, Inc. Board of Directors recommends the establishment of the Navajo language as the Nation's official language and to create a Navajo language holiday to celebrate it.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION THREE:

The Navajo Nation needs to require all schools' mission statements to include a commitment to teaching the Navajo language.

Comment: Not in school mission statements. Admin "talks" and "shows" support when on the stand but not stand by it in reality.

Background: The Navajo Nation's Board of Education (NNBOE) currently retains the charge to coordinate with other governmental entities and education providers in developing and implementing appropriate educational and residential standards for schools and school systems serving the Navajo Nation, including the teaching of Navajo language and culture (Navajo Nation Title 10). The NNBOE carries the additional charge of developing standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessments to promote the education of all Navajo students in revitalizing and perpetuating the Navajo language (Title 10 § 111)

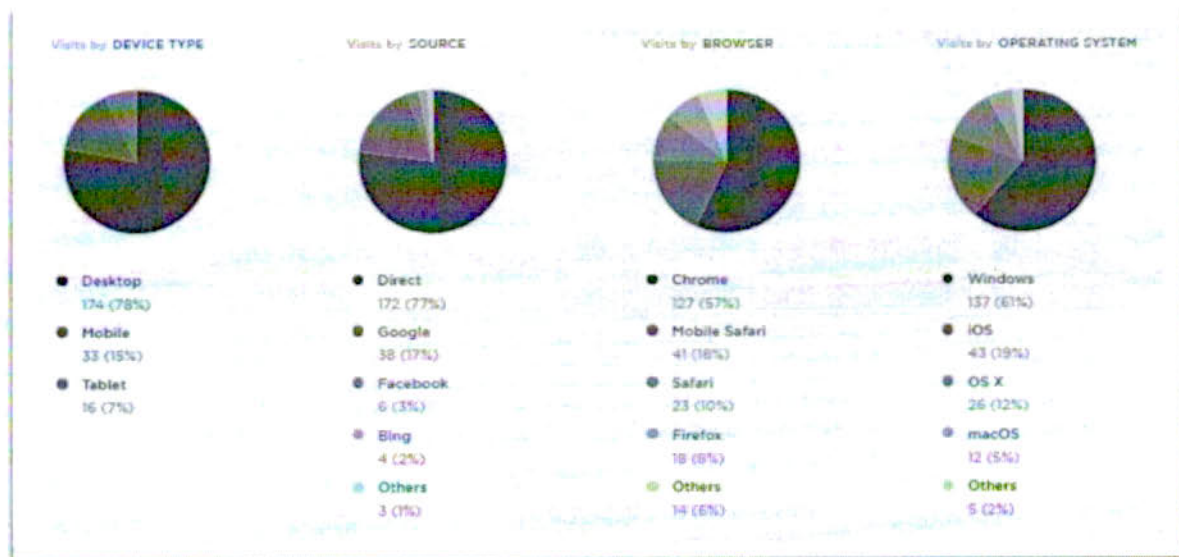
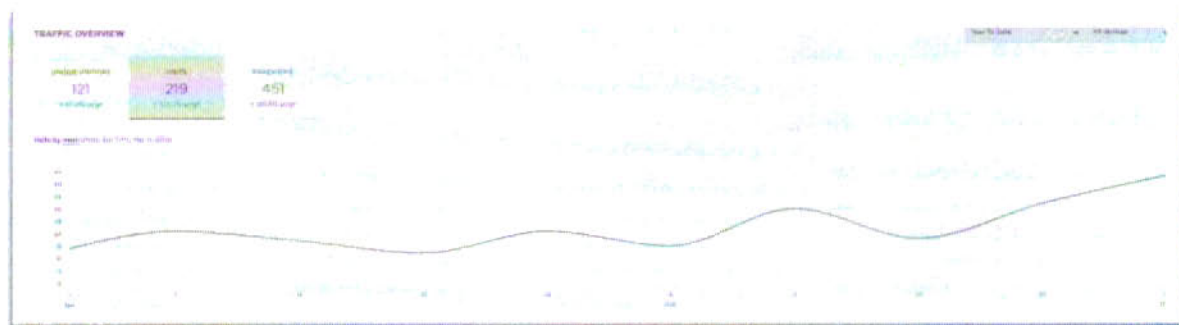
Recommendation: The Navajo Studies Conference, Inc. Board of Directors recommends a unified school mission statement to be adopted by all public, tribal, and federal school boards operating on the Navajo Nation.

www.dinestudies.org
web updates

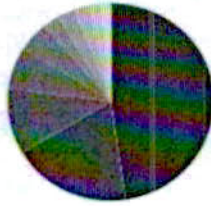
Blurb for Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)

We are accepting proposals for the 21st Diné Studies Conference, in partnership with Diné College, on 10/25-27/2018. Find us at www.dinestudies.org

Website Analytics (since www.navajostudiesconference.org)



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GEOGRAPHY

Visits by Country (Wed, Feb 7 - Fri, Mar 8, 2018)



LOCATION

- us United States
- ca Canada
- cz Czechia
- cn China
- au Australia

VISITS

16 (33%)

16 (33%)

1 (2%)

1 (2%)

1 (2%)

GEOGRAPHY

LOCATION

- us United States
- us New Mexico
- us Arizona
- us Texas
- us California
- us New York
- us Utah
- us Pennsylvania
- us Oklahoma
- us North Carolina
- us Nevada
- us Minnesota
- us Georgia
- us Colorado
- us Connecticut
- us District of Columbia
- us Ohio
- Unknown

VISITS

203 (91%)

141

23

7

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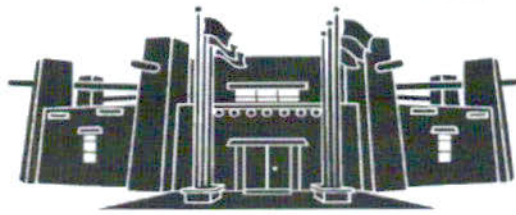
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Nathaniel Brown
24th Navajo Nation Council

FROM: 
Edward A. McCool, Acting-Chief Legislative Counsel
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE: July 19, 2019

AN ACTION RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; APPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE'S DINÉ BIZAAD SUBCOMMITTEE AND APPROVING THE CHAIR OF THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE'S APPOINTMENTS TO THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE'S DINÉ BIZAAD SUBCOMMITTEE

As requested, 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. Please ensure that this 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.

The Office of Legislative Counsel confirms the appropriate standing committee(s) based on the standing committees powers outlined in 2 N.N.C. §§500, 501. 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).

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.