

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

23<sup>RD</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL --- Third Year, 2017

AN ACT

RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER, HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ENACTING ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR THE NAVAJO NATION YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITIES

- A. The Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. 601(B)(14), reviews and makes recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council on proposed amendments to and enactments in the Navajo Nation Code.
- B. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council, among other duties and responsibilities, generally oversees education matters within the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §400(C). In respect to its areas of oversight, the Committee further recommends to the Navajo Nation Council creation of Navajo Nation entities. 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(3).
- C. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9), the committee reviews proposed legislation which requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council.
- D. The Navajo Nation Council enacts laws and sets policy for the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102.

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. On August 21, 2016, the Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye, Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council LoRenzo C. Bates, and Justice Allen Sloan, Acting Chief Justice of the Navajo Supreme Court signed an agreement creating a Navajo Nation Ad Hoc Youth Council. Purposes for the Ad Hoc Youth Council were stated as "ensuring a constant youth voice in tribal operations while creating a forum for future advocacy of youth issues." See attached Exhibit "B."

- B. The Ad Hoc Youth Council consists of 11 appointed members.
- C. Entities of the Navajo Nation are created by the Navajo Nation Council through enactment of enabling legislation and adoption of Policies and Procedures. It is in the best interests of the Navajo Nation that a "Navajo Nation Youth Council" be established through enabling legislation and Policies and Procedures.

**SECTION THREE. ENACTING ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR NAVAJO NATION YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

- A. The Navajo Nation hereby enacts enabling legislation for the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council as provided in Exhibit "A."
- B. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council shall enact Policies and Procedures for the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council. Such Policies and Procedures shall be consistent with the enabling legislation approved herein.
- C. The Ad Hoc Youth Council originally established under the August 16, 2016 three-branch agreement shall operate pursuant to enabling legislation adopted herein, as well as the Policies and Procedures to be considered and adopted by the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.
- D. The enabling legislation, through the Office of Legislative Counsel, shall be placed in Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code. If necessary, the Office of Legislative Counsel may redesignate section numbers.

**EXHIBIT "A"**

**Enabling Legislation**  
**Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council**

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**Title 2. Navajo Nation Government**  
**Chapter 5. Executive Branch**  
**Subchapter 1. Office of the President and Vice-President**  
**Article 8. Navajo Nation Advisory Youth Council**

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§ 1160. ESTABLISHMENT

The Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council is established under the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation Government. The Office of the President and Vice - President shall coordinate technical assistance and support with the Judicial and Legislative Branches.

§ 1161. PURPOSES

The purposes of the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council shall include:

A. Providing policy advice to the President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Nation Council and the Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation Government regarding youth issues and concerns.

B. Identifying issues facing Navajo Nation Youth, and providing guidance and offering solutions to Navajo Nation officials concerning such issues.

C. Recommending amendments to its enabling legislation or Policies and Procedures.

§ 1162. PERSONNEL

The Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council is established under the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation Government. The Office of the President and Vice - President shall coordinate technical assistance and support with the Judicial and Legislative Branches.

§ 1163. ORGANIZATION

A. A Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council shall consist of twelve (12) members. There shall be two (2) members appointed from each of the five Agencies. Two (2) members shall be appointed at large.

B. The Youth Advisory Council shall be recommended by the Office of Dine' Youth and appointed by the President, Speaker and Chief Justice.

C. The terms of the membership shall be two years.

D. The Youth Advisory Council shall select from its members a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

E. Youth Advisory Council members shall be 14 to 24 years old.

F. The Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council shall meet on a quarterly basis and as necessary. Designated members shall receive meals and travel expense reimbursement pursuant to the Navajo Nation laws, policies and procedures.

G. The Youth Advisory Council shall give a quarterly report to the President and Vice-President of the Navajo Nation, Navajo Nation Council at the regular Navajo Nation Council session, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation;

§ 1164. LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

The Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council shall operate under the oversight of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

§ 1165. AMENDMENTS

This enabling legislation for the Navajo Nation Youth Advisory Council may be amended by the Navajo Nation Council.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 15 in favor and 02 opposed, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017.



LoRenzo C. Bates, Speaker  
Navajo Nation Council


4-21-17

Date

Motion: Honorable Seth Damon  
Second: Honorable Jonathan L. Hale

ACTION BY THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT:

1. I hereby sign into law the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005 (c)(10), on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Russell Begaye, President  
Navajo Nation

2. I hereby veto the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005 (c)(11), on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2017 for reason(s) expressed in the attached letter to the Speaker

\_\_\_\_\_  
Russell Begaye, President  
Navajo Nation



NAVAJO NATION

RCS# 740

4/19/2017

NNC Spring Session

05:29:19 PM

Amd# to Amd#

Legislation 0019-17;

PASSED

MOT Damon

Enacting Enabling Legislation

SEC Hale

for the Navajo Nation Youth  
Advisory Council

Yea : 15

Nay : 2

Not Voting : 5

Yea : 15

Begay, K  
Brown  
Chee  
Crotty

Damon  
Daniels  
Hale  
Jack

Perry  
Phelps  
Smith  
Tso

Tsosie  
Witherspoon  
Yazzie

Nay : 2

Filfred

Begay, S

Not Voting : 5

Bates  
Begay, NM

BeGaye, N  
Bennett

Pete  
Shepherd

Slim



**NAVAJO NATION THREE BRANCH AGREEMENT**  
**RECOGNITION OF THE NAVAJO NATION AD HOC**  
**YOUTH COUNCIL**

**AUGUST 21, 2016**

The Diné Youth are the Navajo Nation's future. We must prioritize our Youth in all areas to give them the opportunities to be successful in life, to be prepared to face their challenges and be immersed in our culture and language to carry on our Diné traditions and way of life. To identify these issues and better respond to our Youth, we must establish a mechanism that will allow the voices of the Youth to be heard. Therefore, the Branch Chiefs of the Navajo Nation agree to create a Navajo Nation Ad Hoc Youth Council.

The Navajo Nation Ad Hoc Youth Council shall apprise and provide guidance to the Three Branches on policy matters that involve the Diné Youth. The Navajo Nation Ad Hoc Youth Council will be responsible to identify issues facing our Youth. In turn, provide guidance and offer solutions for the Navajo Nation government to take appropriate action to address these critical issues.

Each Region including satellite communities and urban areas shall be represented on the Navajo Nation Ad Hoc Youth Council. The Navajo Nation Ad Hoc Youth Council Members shall be appointed by the President, Vice President, Speaker and Chief Justice.

So recognized on this 21<sup>st</sup> Day of August, 2016.

**Executive Branch**

**Legislative Branch**

**Judicial Branch**

  
Russell Begaye, *President*

  
LoRenzo Bates, *Speaker*

  
Allen Sloan, *Acting Chief Justice*

  
Jonathan M. Nez, *Vice President*