



The Navajo Nation **DR. BUU NYGREN** *PRESIDENT*

Yideeskáądi Nitsáhákees | *Think for the Future*

December 24, 2024

Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Speaker
Office of the Speaker
Navajo Nation Council
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

RE: Resolution CD-52-24: An Action Relating to the Law and Order Committee, the Naabik'iyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 1 of the Navajo Nation Code, Adding Chapter 4: Official Language of the Navajo Nation

Dear Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council:

I am a proud speaker of Diné Bizaad. I am pleased that Council has moved this Resolution forward to make Diné Bizaad the official language of the Navajo Nation.

In November, I hired Mr. Peter Thomas as an Executive Staff Assistant to implement new strategies and approaches in making Dine Bizaad the heart of my administration. When you come to the Office of the President, you will see signage about Késhmish in Diné Bizaad. These phrases are learned or reinforced in our office and taken home by the staff to share with their families this holiday season.

I take this opportunity to call on the Speaker, Members of the Budget and Finance Committee, and all Honorable Delegates to work with me and the Chief Justice to put forward a comprehensive budget for the rest of the Fiscal Year. I make this call because to make Diné Bizaad the Official Language of the Navajo Nation, and not just a token gesture, the Council needs to put forward substantial financial resources.

Recently I learned that there is a lack of judges due to individuals not being able to speak Diné Bizaad. I want to put forward a program to train our law trained Navajos in our language so that they can serve on the bench.

I also want to enhance ways to partner with the Diné Language Teachers Association.

I am excited that with my signature Diné Bizaad is the official language of the Navajo Nation.

Ahéhee'

A blue ink signature of Dr. Buu Nygren, written in a stylized, cursive script.

Dr. Buu Nygren, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - SECOND YEAR, 2024

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE, THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING TITLE 1 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE, ADDING CHAPTER 4: OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE NAVAJO NATION

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Law and Order Committee of the Navajo Nation Council is empowered to review and make recommendations to the Navajo Nation Council on proposed amendments to and enactments to the Navajo Nation Code, pursuant to 12 N.N.C. § 601(B)(14).
- B. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a Standing Committee of the Navajo Nation Council that reviews legislations requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9), 2 N.N.C. § 701(A)(3).
- C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation with the authority to review and approve amendments to Navajo Nation laws, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 102(A), 2 N.N.C. § 164(A).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Diné Customary Law declares and teaches that it is the right and freedom of the Diné that the sacred Diné language (Nihiiinéí'), be taught and preserved so that they may be provided a holistic education of values and principles underlying the purposes of living in balance with all creation, walking in beauty. 1 N.N.C. § 204(A) and (C).
- B. The Diné received various spiritual healing and teaching through worship, song and prayer (Nahaghá), which must be preserved, taught, maintained and performed in their original forms. 1 N.N.C. § 203(G).
- C. "As Diné, we are the image of our ancestors and we are created in connection with all creation. Upon our creation we are identified by:

Our Diné name,
Our clan
Our language,
Our life way,
Our shadow,
Our footprints.

Therefore, we are called the Holy Earth-Surface-People [*Diyin Nohookáá Diné*]." *Tsosie v. Deschene* and *Whitethorne v. Deschene*, SC-CV-57-14 and SC-CV-58-15. See also 1 N.N.C. § 201 (emphasis added).

- D. Since time immemorial, our people survived by maintaining our value system given by the Holy People. The core of our value system is embedded in the language. *Id.* at 10-11.
- E. Given these reasons, the Navajo Nation finds it in the best interest of the Navajo Nation and the Diné People to amend Title 1 of the Navajo Nation Code, as set forth herein.

SECTION THREE. AMENDING TITLE 1 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE.

The Navajo Nation hereby amends Title 1 of the Navajo Nation Code, as follows:

**NAVAJO NATION CODE ANNOTATED
TITLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

CHAPTER 4. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE NAVAJO NATION

§ 401. Official Language of the Navajo Nation

Diné Bizaad is the official language of the Navajo Nation.

§ 402. Preserving and enhancing the role of the official language

The Navajo Nation Government shall have an affirmative obligation to preserve and enhance the role of Diné Bizaad as the official language of the Navajo Nation. Such an obligation shall include encouraging greater opportunities for individuals to learn the Diné Bizaad.

SECTION FOUR. CODIFICATION

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

SECTION FIVE. SAVING CLAUSE

If any portion of this Act is determined to be invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court or by a District Court of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, the remainder of this Act shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.

SECTION SIX. EFFECTIVE DATE

The provisions of this Act shall become effective according to 2 N.N.C. § 221(B).

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 25th 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 13 in Favor, and 06 Opposed, on this 16th day of December 2024.



Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Speaker
25th Navajo Nation Council

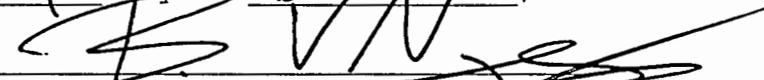
12/19/2024
Date

Motion: Honorable Vince R. James
Second: Honorable George H. Tolth

Speaker Crystalyne Curley not voting

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 24 day of December, 2024.



Buu Nygren, President
Navajo Nation

2. I, hereby, veto the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005 (C)(11), on this _____ day of _____, 2024 for the reason(s) expressed in the attached letter to the Speaker.

Buu Nygren, President
Navajo Nation

NAVAJO NATION

502

12/16/2024

Navajo Nation Council Special Session

10:53:39 AM

Amd# to Amd#

New Business: Item A. (CONSENT)

PASSED

MOT James, V

#0233-24; #0242-24

SEC Tolth, G

Yeas : 13

Nays : 6

Excused : 2

Not Voting : 1

Yea : 13

Begay, N

Daniels, H

Nez, R

Tolth, G

Charles-Newton, E

James, V

Parrish, S

Yanito, C

Claw, S

Jesus, B

Slater, C

Yazzie, L

Crotty, A

Nay : 6

Begay, H

Nez, A

Simpson, D

Yazzie, C

Johnson, C

Simonson, G

Excused : 2

Notah, N

Tso, O

Not Voting : 1

Arviso, S

Presiding Speaker: Curley, C