



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

Yideeskáadi Nitsáhákees | *Think for the Future*

August 6, 2026

Honorable Delegates of the 25th Navajo Nation Council
25th Navajo Nation Council
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515

RE: Resolution No. CJY-38-26: An Act Relating to the Law and Order and the Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Amending Title 14 of the Navajo Nation Code to Allow for Motorcycle Traffic Lane Filtering.

Dear Honorable Delegates of the 25th Navajo Nation Council:

I am pleased to sign this Resolution into law. This Resolution updates our laws concerning motorcycles so that we will be consistent with the motorcycle laws of Arizona. Updating our laws to match Arizona's allows motorcycle visitors – such as tourists – to feel confident that when they travel onto the Navajo Nation, they know the rule that applies to them.

Now motorcycles will be allowed to pass stopped cars and operate between lanes of traffic. Motorcycles can only do this when the posted speed limit does not exceed forty-five miles (45) per hour, and the motorcycle does not exceed fifteen (15) miles per hour. This rule is helpful in cities like Phoenix where traffic can come to a screeching halt for miles. The law also clarifies that there may not be two motorcycles driving side by side in a single lane.

I am pleased to update our motorcycle laws to make them modern and consistent with a surrounding jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Dr. Buu Nygren, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2026

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE LAW AND ORDER AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND
THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; AMENDING TITLE 14 OF THE NAVAJO NATION
CODE TO ALLOW FOR MOTORCYCLE TRAFFIC LANE FILTERING

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Law and Order Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the enumerated 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) and 601(B)(14).
- B. The Naabik'íyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with the authority to hear proposed resolutions requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164(A)(9), 700(A) and 701(A)(3).
- C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. Title 14 of the Navajo Nation Code established the Navajo Nation Motor Vehicle Code, which governs the regulation and safe operation of motor vehicles on roadways within the Navajo Nation, including the use of motorcycles. 14 N.N.C. § 400.
- B. The Navajo Nation Council recognizes that traffic safety laws must periodically be reviewed and updated to reflect modern transportation practices, roadway conditions, and advancements in traffic safety.
- C. Motorcycles operate differently from other motor vehicles and are more vulnerable in congested traffic conditions, particularly when stopped vehicles create a heightened risk of rear-end collisions involving motorcycles.
- D. Several states have adopted laws permitting limited motorcycle lane filtering under controlled conditions to enhance motorcyclist safety and improve the flow of traffic.

- E. In 2022, the Arizona State Legislature enacted Arizona Senate Bill 1273, attached as **Exhibit A**, which amended Arizona Revised Statutes §§ 28-729 and 28-903 to allow operators of two-wheeled motorcycles to overtake and pass stopped vehicles in the same direction of travel under specific safety conditions.
- F. The Arizona law permits motorcycle lane filtering only when the roadway contains at least two adjacent lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction, when vehicles are stopped, when the posted speed limit does not exceed forty-five (45) miles per hour, and when the motorcycle does not travel faster than fifteen (15) miles per hour while filtering between lanes.
- G. The Navajo Nation shares extensive transportation corridors with surrounding states, including Arizona, and many motorist and motorcyclists travel across jurisdictional boundaries daily.
- H. Establishing traffic laws within the Navajo Nation that are consistent with neighboring jurisdictions, where appropriate, promotes regulatory clarity, public awareness, and safer roadway practices for residents and visitors traveling within the Navajo Nation.
- I. The Navajo Nation Council finds that allowing limited motorcycle lane filtering under clearly defined safety conditions will enhance roadway safety for motorcyclists, reduce the likelihood of certain traffic collisions, and modernize the Navajo Nation Motor Vehicle Code.
- J. The Navajo Nation Council therefore finds it in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to amend 14 N.N.C. § 400 to permit motorcycle lane filtering under specific safety conditions consistent with the intent of Arizona's lane filtering law while maintaining appropriate safeguard for the protection of the public.

SECTION THREE. AMENDING TITLE 14 OF THE NAVAJO NATION CODE

- A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby amends the Title 14 of the Navajo Nation Code as follows:

TITLE 14. NAVAJO NATION MOTOR VEHICLE CODE
CHAPTER 2. CIVIL INFRACTIONS; RESPONSIBILITY AND ASSESSMENT
SUBCHAPTER 21. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

* * *

§ 400. Riding on motorcycles

- A. No person shall operate a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle upon a public street, road or highway in the Navajo Nation unless he or she has a valid motorcycle license.
- B. A person operating a motorcycle shall ride only upon the permanent and regular seat attached thereto, and the operator shall not carry any other person nor shall any other person ride on a motorcycle unless the motorcycle is designed to carry more than one person, in which event a passenger may ride upon the permanent and regular seat if designed for two persons, or upon another seat firmly attached to the rear or side of the operator.
- C. Any person operating a motorcycle not having a fixed windshield shall wear an eye protective device, which may be a face-shield attached to a safety helmet, goggles or safety eyeglasses. All eye protective devices or windshields shall be of a type complying with appropriate state regulations or codes.
- D. Any person who violates the provisions of this Section shall be subject to a civil assessment fee not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).
- E. Motorcycles are entitled to the full use of a traffic lane, and a person shall not operate a motor vehicle in a manner that deprives a motorcycle of the full use of a lane. This subsection does not apply to motorcycles operated two abreast within a single lane.
- F. Except as provided in subsection (H) of this Section, the operator of a motorcycle shall not overtake and pass another vehicle in the same lane occupied by the vehicle being overtaken and shall not operate a motorcycle between lanes of traffic or between adjacent rows of vehicles.
- G. A person shall not operate a motorcycle more than two abreast within a single lane of traffic.
- H. Notwithstanding subsection (F) of this Section, the operator of a two-wheeled motorcycle may overtake and pass another vehicle that is stopped in the same direction of travel and may operate the motorcycle between lanes of traffic if the movement may be made safely and if the operator does both of the following:

1. Operates the motorcycle on a roadway that is divided into at least two adjacent traffic lanes moving in the same direction of travel; and has a posted speed limit that does not exceed forty-five (45) miles per hour.
2. Operates the motorcycle at a speed that does not exceed fifteen (15) miles per hour while overtaking or passing between lanes of traffic.

* * *

SECTION FOUR. CODIFICATION

The provision of these amendments of the Navajo Nation Code shall incorporate 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

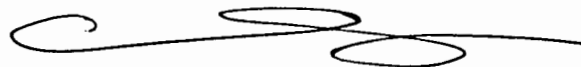
If any provision of this Act is determined invalid by the Supreme Court of the Navajo Nation, or by a Navajo Nation District Court without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, the remainder of this Act shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.

SECTION SIX. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Action shall become effective in accordance with 2 N.N.C. § 221(A) and (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 21 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 20th day of July 2026.



Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Speaker
25th Navajo Nation Council

7/30/2026

Date

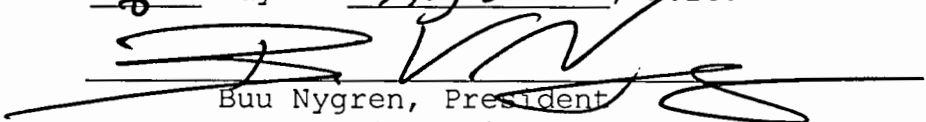
Motion: Honorable Vince R. James

Second: Honorable Nathan Notah

Speaker Crystalyne Curley not voting

ACTION BY THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT:

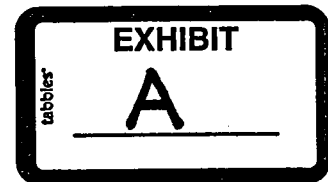
1. I, hereby, sign into law the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 1005(C)(10), on this 6 day of August, 2026.



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 _____, 2026 for the reason(s) expressed in the attached letter to the Speaker.

Buu Nygren, President
Navajo Nation



Senate Engrossed

two-wheeled motorcycle operation

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

CHAPTER 42

SENATE BILL 1273

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 28-729 AND 28-903, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO
THE OPERATION OF MOTORCYCLES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 28-729, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 28-729. Driving on roadways laned for traffic

5 If a roadway is divided into two or more clearly marked lanes for
6 traffic, the following rules in addition to all others consistent with
7 this section apply:

8 1. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 28-903, a person shall drive a
9 vehicle as nearly as practicable entirely within a single lane and shall
10 not move the vehicle from that lane until the driver has first ascertained
11 that the movement can be made with safety.

12 2. On a roadway that is divided into three lanes, a person shall
13 not drive a vehicle in the center lane except when overtaking and passing
14 another vehicle where the roadway is clearly visible and the center lane
15 is clear of traffic within a safe distance, or in preparation for a left
16 turn or where the center lane is at the time allocated exclusively to
17 traffic moving in the direction the vehicle is proceeding and is
18 signposted to give notice of the allocation.

19 3. Official signs may be erected directing slow-moving traffic to
20 use a designated lane or designating those lanes to be used by traffic
21 moving in a particular direction regardless of the center of the roadway,
22 and drivers of vehicles shall obey the directions of every sign.

23 Sec. 2. Section 28-903, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
24 read:

25 28-903. Operation of motorcycle on laned roadway; exceptions

26 A. All motorcycles are entitled to the full use of a lane. A
27 person shall not drive a motor vehicle in such a manner as to deprive any
28 motorcycle of the full use of a lane. This subsection does not apply to
29 motorcycles operated two abreast in a single lane.

30 B. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION F OF THIS SECTION, the operator
31 of a motorcycle shall not overtake and pass in the same lane occupied by
32 the vehicle being overtaken.

33 C. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION F OF THIS SECTION, a person
34 shall not operate a motorcycle between the lanes of traffic or between
35 adjacent rows of vehicles.

36 D. A person shall not operate a motorcycle more than two abreast in
37 a single lane.

38 E. Subsections B and C OF THIS SECTION do not apply to peace
39 officers in the performance of their official duties.

40 F. THE OPERATOR OF A TWO-WHEELED MOTORCYCLE MAY OVERTAKE AND PASS
41 ANOTHER VEHICLE THAT IS STOPPED IN THE SAME DIRECTION OF TRAVEL AND IN THE
42 SAME LANE AS THE OPERATOR AND MAY OPERATE THE MOTORCYCLE BETWEEN LANES OF
43 TRAFFIC IF THE MOVEMENT MAY BE MADE SAFELY AND IF THE OPERATOR DOES BOTH
44 OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 1 1. OPERATES THE MOTORCYCLE ON A STREET THAT BOTH:
 - 2 (a) IS DIVIDED INTO AT LEAST TWO ADJACENT TRAFFIC LANES IN THE SAME
 - 3 DIRECTION OF TRAVEL.
 - 4 (b) HAS A SPEED LIMIT THAT DOES NOT EXCEED FORTY-FIVE MILES PER
 - 5 HOUR.
 - 6 2. TRAVELS AT A SPEED THAT DOES NOT EXCEED FIFTEEN MILES PER HOUR.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MARCH 23, 2022.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MARCH 23, 2022.

NAVAJO NATION

Navajo Nation Council 2026 Summer Session

7/20/2026

03:15:05 PM

Amd# to Amd#	(CONSENT #2)	PASSED
MOT James, V	New Business: Item F.	
SEC Notah, N	#0064-26; #0073-26; #0102-26; #0127-26; #0171-26	

Yeas : 21

Nays : 0

Excused : 1

Not Voting : 1

Yea : 21

Begay, H	James, V	Nez, R	Simpson, D
Begay, N	Jesus, B	Nez, T	Tolth, G
Charles-Newton, E	Johnson, C	Notah, N	Yanito, C
Claw, S	Mitchell, A	Parrish, S	Yazzie, C
Crotty, A	Nez, A	Simonson, G	Yazzie, L
Daniels, H			

Nay : 0

Excused : 1

Tso, O

Not Voting : 1

Slater, C

Presiding Speaker: Curley, C