

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0035-21\_

SPONSOR: Edmund Yazzie

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Resources and Development, Health, Education and Human Services and Naabik'iyáti' Committees; Strongly Advising that the Indian Health Service, Office of Environmental Health, Streamline Delivery of Sanitation Services**

*Date posted:* March 10, 2021 at 6:20PM

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**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

Tracking No. 0035-21

**DATE:** March 3, 2021

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACTION RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; STRONGLY ADVISING THAT THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE, OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, STREAMLINE DELIVERY OF SANITATION SERVICES

**PURPOSE:** This resolution, if adopted, would strongly advise that the Indian Health Service, Office of Environmental Health, to streamline delivery of sanitation services.

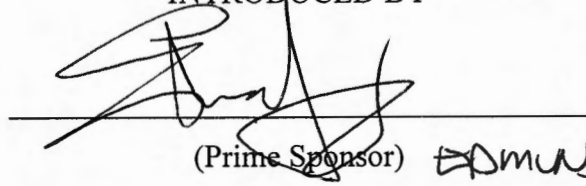
This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: 16 Rednose  
Website Posting Time/Date:  
Posting End Date: 03-15-2021  
Eligible for Action: 03-16-2021

Resources & Development Committee  
Thence  
Health Education & Human Services Committee  
Thence  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Third Year, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

  
(Prime Sponsor) EDMUND YAPIE

TRACKING NO. 0035-21

AN ACTION  
RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, EDUCATION  
AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; STRONGLY  
ADVISING THAT THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE, OFFICE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, STREAMLINE DELIVERY OF SANITATION  
SERVICES

WHEREAS:

A. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 500(A). The committee, among other duties and responsibilities, exercises oversight authority over such matters as water, the environment and public utilities. 2 N.N.C. § 500(C).

B. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. 2 N.N.C. § 400(A). Among other responsibilities, the committee oversees all education and health-related activities of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 401(C) (2).

C. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council 2 N.N.C. § 700(A). The committee, among other responsibilities, “coordinate[s] all federal, county and state programs with other standing committees and branches of the Navajo Nation government to provide the most efficient delivery of services to the Navajo Nation.” 2 N.N.C. § 701(A)(4).

1 D. The Indian Health Service, Office of Environmental Health, hereafter referred to as  
2 IHS, has the responsibility through Public Law 86-121 to provide sanitary facilities  
3 including but not limited to indoor plumbing, piped water services, cisterns systems,  
4 wastewater domestic sewer lines, and septic tank and drain field systems to federally  
5 recognized Native American and Alaskan Native tribes, including the Navajo Nation and  
6 its people.

7 E. The IHS provides typical feedback to customers once a customer is funded on a  
8 project, and the average timeline to complete construction is five (5) years. This typical  
9 time frame is far too lengthy for people to wait for sanitary services and life sustaining  
10 potable water supply. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic crisis revealed and reemphasized  
11 the substantial amount of Navajo homes that still do not have these basic services.

12 F. The response to COVID-19 by the IHS Headquarters of installing transitional  
13 watering points was very much appreciated. However, the Sanitation Deficiency System  
14 (SDS) is substantially outdated.

15 G. The IHS 121 program is also unacceptably underfunded to meet the needs on the  
16 Navajo Nation. The unmet need as of December 2020 on Navajo Nation was \$535  
17 million and increasing by \$15.5 million per year. See attached Exhibit A, letter dated  
18 December 23, 2020 from NAIHS to President Jonathan Nez, *Navajo Area IHS Sanitation*  
19 *Deficiency System (SDS) List – FY 2021*.

20  
21 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

22 The Navajo Nation hereby strongly advises that the Indian Health Service, Office of  
23 Environmental Health, streamline delivery of its sanitation services and make the process  
24 of delivering these critical services much more efficient. More particularly:

25 A. The IHS program must reevaluate the funding level to systematically address the  
26 substantial unmet needs on the Navajo Nation and create a dedicated timeline to  
27 accomplish these objectives.

28 B. The IHS must update the data and bring current the Sanitation Deficiency System for  
29 homes lacking service on the Navajo Nation.  
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C. The IHS must provide proper and sufficient resources to the Navajo Area Indian Health Services, its Office of Environmental Health program, so that the program can timely execute the needed projects within the Navajo Nation.

D. The IHS must also review and make effective the rules, regulations and criteria for the work required and funded.