



## The 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council

Contact: Alastair L. Bitsoi, Public Information Officer

Phone: (928) 871-7228

Cell: (928) 255-2943

Fax: (928) 871-7255

[navajocouncil\\_pio@yahoo.com](mailto:navajocouncil_pio@yahoo.com)

[www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)

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## Intergovernmental Relations Committee passes legislation supporting passage of Arizona Senate Bill 1437

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** –The Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council passed legislation (Legislation No. 0155-10) today supporting Arizona Senate Bill 1437, which would increase the amount of state transaction privilege tax revenues collected on a reservation and distributed equally to tribal community colleges for the maintenance, renewal and capital expenses; thus, strengthening the compact between Indian tribes and the State of Arizona.

If Senate Bill 1437 passes the state legislature, tribal colleges would receive \$1.75 million or one-tenth of the annual TPT or sales tax, whichever is greater, collected on a reservation to be used for an Indian tribe's respective college(s).

Council Delegate Leonard Anthony (Shiprock), sponsor of the legislation, said Legislation No. 0155-10 is important to the Navajo Nation and its colleges.

"This legislation speaks to the following language – the Navajo Nation has a position supporting the Arizona Legislature on the passage of Senate Bill 1437," Anthony said. "We want to support this bill so monies are collected for Diné College and Navajo Technical College, as well as other tribal colleges in Arizona."

In the case of the Navajo Nation, the bill would continue providing money to Diné College as well adding Navajo Technical College (NTC) in Chinle, Ariz., to the compact list for funding. Both institutions would receive at least \$1.75 million; however, NTC would need to gain accreditation status before granted its share of money.

In related efforts to Arizona sales tax, Gov. Jan Brewer of Arizona has sponsored Proposition 100, a plan to generate \$1 billion annually through a one-percent sales tax increase for three years. The proposition is scheduled to go before Arizona voters on May 18. Two-thirds of the generated money will be appropriated to education and with one-third split between Public Safety and Health and Human Services. The proposition could impact the allocation of money to tribes including tribal colleges.

The legislation demonstrates and affirms the Navajo Nation Council's support and best interest of the Navajo Nation, its colleges, and other citizens in the State of Arizona. The legislation passed the committee, 6-0.

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