



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Budget and Finance Committee approves the restoration of
Conditions of Appropriations to the Nation’s 2014 Comprehensive Budget**

WINDOW ROCK – During a special meeting held on Monday, the Budget and Finance Committee approved Legislation No. 0337-13, to amend Resolution CS -47-13, the Navajo Nation’s FY 2014 comprehensive budget by adding Conditions of Appropriations.

On Sept. 9, the Council adopted the Nation’s FY 2014 comprehensive budget along with a total of 29 COA’s. However on Sept. 27, President Ben Shelly line-item vetoed 21 of the 29 COA’s, all of which stipulated that five-percent of specified individuals’ salary be withheld if the COA’s were not met by specified deadlines.

Legislation sponsor and BFC chair Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland) said President Shelly’s main concern was the five-percent salary stipulation.

“The only concern that [President Shelly] had was as long as the five-percent didn’t exist, he was good with the COA’s,” said Delegate Bates.

Language in the bill replaces the five-percent salary stipulation with new wording that restricts compensation for business travel outside of the Navajo Nation if the COA’s are not met by the end of the second quarter of FY 2014.

BFC vice chair Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin) expressed caution as it relates to setting precedence, adding that more COA’s are likely to be added to the bill.

“I take it this will set precedence for future budgets. Next year I would anticipate no COA’s being attached to the comprehensive budget and COA’s being done differently,” said Delegate Nez. “We are opening the door again for additional COA’s when this comes to Council.”

Prior to voting on the main motion, Council Delegate Nelson BeGaye (Lukachukai, Rock Point, Round Rock, Tsaile/Wheatfields, Tsé Ch’ izhi) urged all parties to work together to develop a more efficient and effective method for developing the Nation’s comprehensive budget.

At the conclusion of the discussion, BFC members approved the legislation with a vote of 3-0.

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