



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Navajo Nation Council approves supplemental funding for Veterans Agency Organizations and Summer Youth Employment

WINDOW ROCK – During a special session held on Thursday, the Navajo Nation Council approved supplemental funding requests in the amount of \$1,094,784 for the five Veterans Agency Organizations, and \$2 million to the 110 chapters for summer youth employment.

Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) was the sponsor of both legislations. He requested the support of his Council colleagues to help provide services for Navajo veterans in each of the five Navajo agencies across the Nation, and to help chapters provide summer employment for high school and college students.

Legislation No 0147-18 was approved by a vote of 14-2 on Thursday. If signed into law by the President, it will provide \$1,094,784 from the Veterans Trust Fund income and distributed to the Navajo Nation Veterans Agencies for the 110 chapters using the 50/50 formula. The 50/50 formula requires that half of the total amount be distributed evenly among the 110 chapters, the other half would be distributed to the chapters based on the number of registered voters in each of the 110 chapters.

Northern Agency Veterans Organization Commander Vern R. Lee and Fort Defiance Agency Veterans Organization Vice Commander Ryan Sandoval joined delegate Damon, in presenting the legislation and requesting the support of the Council to provide the funding for services for Navajo veterans that include burial assistance, emergency assistance, energy assistance, weatherization assistance, and other public assistance.

Following the passage of the bill, the Council unanimously approved Legislation No. 0172-18, supporting supplemental funding from the Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance in the amount of \$2 million to the 110 chapters for summer youth employment.

Delegate Damon stated that the funds would allow all chapters to begin hiring high school and college students this summer and provide benefits for communities while also allowing students to earn income that would help them cover academic expenses or cost-of-living expenses for college students.

If signed into law, the resolution directs the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of the Controller, and the Division of Community Development to update the chapter summer youth employment balances within seven calendar days of the enactment of the resolution to allow chapters to begin hiring students as soon as possible. The funding would be distributed to the 110 chapters based on the 50/50 formula.

The Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0172-18 with a vote of 18-0. The President will have 10 calendar days to consider the two bills once the resolutions are delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President.

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