Naaʼbikʼiyátiʼ Committee Actions for August 1, 2011

Window Rock, AZ — On Monday the Naaʼbikʼiyátiʼ Committee met and considered the following resolutions:

Legislation No. 0265-11: Sponsored by Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Tsah Bii Kin, Navajo Mountain, Shonto, Ojato), this bill designated the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission as the Lead Agency for the Navajo Nation during the 2011-2012 Congressional and State Redistricting Activities. It also endorsed and recommended to the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission to use the Arizona State Legislative Redistricting Plan Option “A” as it was presented in the Commission’s Resolution NNHRCJUN-04-11.

The vote was 14 in favor, zero opposed.

However a motion to recall by Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon (Hard Rock, Forest Lake, Piñon, Black Mesa, Whippoorwill) in order to further amend the legislation was also approved 13 in favor, one opposed.

Legislation No. 0263-11: Sponsored by Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon, this bill confirmed the appointment of Jones Begay as the Black Mesa Chapter representative to the Black Mesa Review Board.

The vote was 17 in favor, one opposed.

Legislation No. 0272-11: Sponsored by Council Speaker Johnny Naize (Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, Low Mountain), this bill approves the budget reallocation of $93,902.32 from the Office of the Speaker to the Navajo Nation Standing Committees (Budget & Finance, Resources & Development, Law & Order, Health, Education & Human Services, Naaʼbikʼiyátiʼ).

However Council Delegate Roscoe Smith (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill) indicated this resolution was already acted on during a previous Naaʼbikʼiyátiʼ meeting and motioned to delete this item off the agenda.

The vote to delete the item was 14 in favor zero opposed.

Legislation No. 0276-11: Sponsored by Council Speaker Johnny Naize, this bill confirmed the appointment of Dr. Jennifer Denetdale as a Commissioner on the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission.

The vote was 18 in favor, zero opposed.

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**Legislation No.0286-11**: Sponsored by Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (T'iistoh Sikaad, Nenahnezad, Upper Fruitland, Tse' Daa' Kaan, Newcomb, San Juan), this bill amended the Navajo Nation Code, Title 12, Chapter 2, regarding the Office of the Controller at Sections 201, 202, and 204.

The legislation was presented in the form of a committee report and had been approved by both Law & Order and Budget & Finance Committees. The changes proposed included instructions for new accounting and analyst positions for the Controller’s staff and new certification requirements for future candidates for the Controller’s position.

The vote was 14 in favor, two opposed. This report now moves for consideration by the Navajo Nation Council during its next session.


The legislation was presented in the form of a committee report and had been approved by the Budget & Finance Committee.

After some discussion regarding whether representatives from KPMG should be present for any questions about the report, Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Lake Valley, Nahodishgish, Standing Rock, Whiterock, Huerfano, Nageezi, Crownpoint) proposed to table the report until the next Naa'bik'íyáti’ Committee meeting.

The motion failed by a vote of seven in favor and eight opposed.

A final vote of 11 in favor and five opposed, moved the report for consideration by the Navajo Nation Council during its next session.

**Legislation No. 0302-11**: Sponsored by Council Delegate Mel R. Begay (Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohachi, Bahastl’a’a’), this bill will allocate $2,200,000 in unanticipated revenues as supplemental appropriation to the 110 Navajo Nation Chapters to be used for Youth Employment Funding at $20,000 per chapter upon a declaration by the Navajo Nation Controller that the minimum fund balance of the Undesignated Unreserved Fund has been met.

The legislation was presented in the form of a committee report and had been approved by the Budget & Finance Committee.

There was one amendment added to the legislation which assigned an appropriation of $286,000 for the Hoosh Doo Dii To' nursing home located in Blue Gap, Arizona.

A directive was also added that instructs the three branches of the Navajo Nation government to develop spending priorities for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2012 Operating Budget.

A second amendment that would alter the amount distributed to each chapter failed by a vote of six in favor and eight opposed.

A final vote of 11 in favor and two opposed, moved the report for consideration by the Navajo Nation Council during its next session.

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