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CO-40-06  
Human Rights Commission

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

20<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Fourth Year, 2006

AN ACT

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JUDICIARY  
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS; APPROVING THE NAVAJO  
NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ACT, 2 N.N.C. §§920 TO 924

BE IT ENACTED:

Section 1. Enacting the Navajo Nation Human Rights  
Commission Act

The Navajo Nation hereby enacts the Navajo Nation  
Human Rights Commission Act.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of these amendments is to create a Navajo  
Nation Human Rights Commission to collect data regarding  
discrimination acts against citizens of the Navajo Nation  
by private citizens, businesses, organizations, and foreign  
governments (state, federal and foreign nations) within and  
outside the Navajo Nation, subject to applicable laws.

Section 3. Amendments

The Navajo Nation hereby amends the Navajo Nation  
Code, Title 2, §§920 to 924, as follows:

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Title 2. Navajo Nation Code

Chapter 3. Legislative Branch

Subchapter 11. Boards and Commissions

§920 Establishment

There is hereby established the Navajo Human Rights  
Commission (herein referred to as the "Commission") in the  
Legislative Branch as an entity of the Navajo Nation  
government.

CO-40-06

§921 Purpose

The Commission is organized to operate as a clearinghouse entity to administratively address discriminatory actions against citizens of the Navajo Nation, and to interface with the local, state, federal governments and with national and international human rights organizations in accordance with its plan of operation and applicable laws and regulations of Navajo Nation.

§922 Organization; Powers; and Office

A. The Commission shall consist of five commissioners. Qualifications for the commissioners shall include persons with reputable and established backgrounds in the fields of education, business, law enforcement and social services. The commissioners shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council and confirmed by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

B. Commissioners shall receive no additional compensation for their activities in connection with the Commission, other than reimbursement for required and authorized expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

C. The Commission shall receive reports of discriminatory and racial acts perpetrated against citizens of the Navajo Nation. The Commission will compile this data to track occurrences of these events and refer documented incidents to the proper authorities, subject to applicable laws.

D. The Commission shall have the authority to approve the rules, policies and procedures for the Commission and its office, to conduct public hearings, and to issue subpoenas, in accordance with the laws of the Navajo Nation. Commissioners shall hire and supervise an Executive Director for the Commission in accordance with Navajo Nation Personnel Policies Manual.



CO-40-06

E. The Executive Director shall administer the daily operations of the Commission through the Office of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission. The Executive Director shall be responsible and accountable to the Commission and shall be authorized to employ necessary personnel in accordance with the Navajo Nation Personnel Policies Manual and the Navajo Nation operating budget.

F. The Commission shall coordinate with other Navajo Nation offices, departments, and other governmental entities as necessary to carry out the Commission's purposes and authorities, subject to applicable laws. This Act shall not be construed to diminish the operation of the Navajo Nation Business Opportunity Act, the Navajo Nation Business and Procurement Act, the Navajo Preference in Employment Act, the Navajo Nation Bill of Rights, or any other laws of the Navajo Nation.

#### §923 Legislative Oversight

The Commission shall operate under the legislative oversight of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the Navajo Nation Council, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §824(B)(1). The Commission shall operate pursuant to a Plan of Operation recommended by the Office of the Speaker and adopted by the Navajo Nation Council.

#### §924 Amendments

The enabling legislation for the Commission may be amended by the Navajo Nation Council upon recommendation of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

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#### Section 4. Effective Date

The amendments enacted herein shall be effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §221.

CO-40-06

## Section 5. Codification

This amendment of the Navajo Nation Code shall be codified by the Office of Legislative Counsel. The Office of Legislative Counsel shall incorporate said amendment in the next codification of the Navajo Nation Code.

## Section 6. Savings Clause

Should any portion of this amendment be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, or by the District Court of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme Court, those portions of the Act which are not determined invalid shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 60 in favor and 1 opposed, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October 2006.



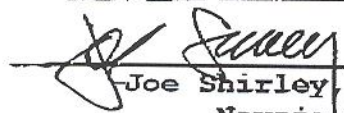
Lawrence T. Morgan, Speaker  
Navajo Nation Council

20 OCT 2006  
Date

Motion: Peterson Yazzie  
Second: Ernest Hubbell

## ACTION BY THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT:

1. I hereby sign into law the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005 (C) (10), on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of OCT 30 2006 2006.



Joe Shirley, Jr., President  
Navajo Nation

CO-40-06

2. I hereby veto the foregoing legislation, pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §1005 (C) (11), this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2006 for the reason(s) expressed in the attached letter to the Speaker.

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Joe Shirley, Jr., President  
Navajo Nation