

HOUSE BILL 203

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO SPACEPORT DEVELOPMENT; CHANGING THE APPOINTING  
AUTHORITY OF MEMBERS OF THE SPACEPORT AUTHORITY; PROVIDING  
QUALIFICATIONS FOR SPACEPORT AUTHORITY MEMBERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 58-31-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2005,  
Chapter 128, Section 4) is amended to read:

"58-31-4. SPACEPORT AUTHORITY CREATED--MEMBERSHIP.--

A. The "spaceport authority" is created. The  
authority is a state agency and is administratively attached to  
the economic development department.

B. The authority shall consist of seven voting and  
two nonvoting members. ~~[six of whom]~~ With the consent of the  
senate, two shall be appointed by the governor ~~[with the~~  
~~consent of the senate]~~ and one each shall be appointed by the

1 president pro tempore of the senate, the speaker of the house  
2 of representatives, the minority floor leader of the senate and  
3 the minority floor leader of the house of representatives;  
4 provided that one of the appointed members shall be a resident  
5 of Sierra county. No more than three appointed members shall  
6 belong to the same political party. The seventh member shall  
7 be the secretary of economic development or the secretary's  
8 designee. The lieutenant governor shall serve as a nonvoting  
9 ex-officio member. The executive director of the authority  
10 shall serve as a nonvoting member. The chair may appoint a  
11 nonvoting advisory committee to provide advice and  
12 recommendations on authority matters.

13 C. The members appointed by the governor shall be  
14 residents of the state and shall serve for terms of four years,  
15 except for the initial appointees who shall be appointed so  
16 that the terms are staggered after initial appointment.  
17 Initial appointees shall serve terms as follows: two members  
18 for two years, two members for three years and two members for  
19 four years. A member shall have experience in at least one of  
20 the following: the aerospace or aviation industry; bond  
21 financing, public finance or capital project funding; or  
22 practicing law or academic experience in aerospace, aviation,  
23 public infrastructure, regulatory compliance, public-private  
24 partnerships or a relevant science.

25 D. Appointed voting members of the authority shall

1 be reimbursed for per diem and mileage in accordance with the  
2 provisions of the Per Diem and Mileage Act that apply to  
3 nonsalaried public officers, unless a different provision of  
4 that act applies to a specific member, in which case that  
5 member shall be paid under the applicable provision. Members  
6 and advisors shall receive no other compensation, perquisite or  
7 allowance for serving as a member of or advisor to the  
8 authority.

9 E. The secretary of economic development or the  
10 secretary's designee shall serve as the chair of the authority.  
11 Authority members shall elect any other officers from the  
12 membership that the authority determines appropriate.

13 F. The chair, four other authority voting members  
14 appointed by the chair and the executive director of the  
15 authority shall constitute the spaceport authority executive  
16 committee. The committee shall have powers and duties as  
17 delegated to it by the authority.

18 G. If a vacancy occurs among the appointed voting  
19 members of the authority, the ~~[governor shall appoint a~~  
20 ~~replacement]~~ vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the  
21 original appointment to serve out the term of the former  
22 member. If an appointed member's term expires, the member  
23 shall continue to serve until the member is reappointed or  
24 another person is appointed and confirmed by the senate to  
25 replace the member.

1           H. The authority shall meet at the call of the  
2 chair and shall meet in regular session at least once every  
3 three months.

4           I. The authority shall maintain written minutes of  
5 all meetings of the authority and maintain other appropriate  
6 records, including financial transaction records in compliance  
7 with law and adequate to provide an accurate record for audit  
8 purposes pursuant to the Audit Act."

9           **SECTION 2. TEMPORARY PROVISION.**--Members serving on the  
10 spaceport authority immediately prior to the effective date of  
11 this act shall continue to serve until the members' existing  
12 terms expire. Upon the expiration of each such term, vacancies  
13 shall be filled according to the following schedule:

14           A. the two seats with four-year initial terms shall  
15 thereafter be appointed one each by the speaker of the house of  
16 representatives and minority floor leader of the house of  
17 representatives;

18           B. the two seats with three-year initial terms  
19 shall thereafter be appointed one each by the president pro  
20 tempore of the senate and the governor; and

21           C. the two seats with two-year initial terms shall  
22 thereafter be appointed one each by the minority floor leader  
23 of the senate and the governor.

24           **SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The effective date of the  
25 provisions of this act is July 1, 2026.

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