

LFC Requester:	
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov
(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 1/22/2026 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB96 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Rep. Hochman-Vigil **Agency Name and Code** 360
Short Title: Space Commission Working Group **Number:** _____
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
	200.0	Nonrecurring	General

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Bill 96 establishes a five-member Space Commission Working Group comprising one member appointed by the Governor, one by the Lieutenant Governor, and one by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with the remaining two members selected by a majority vote of these three officials. Tasked with evaluating the feasibility of a permanent state aerospace authority, the group must prioritize candidates with professional backgrounds in commercial aerospace, civil aviation, space economic development, academic research, and space-related nonprofit work. The group must deliver a strategic plan and budget proposal by October 1, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill utilizes nonrecurring \$200.0 appropriation to the Economic Development Department (EDD) for a one-year feasibility study. This allows the state to define the "structure and scope" of a permanent commission before committing to long-term recurring costs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This first-of-its-kind focus group will identify strategic growth opportunities across the commercial, tourism, military, and scientific space sectors, providing a unified policy voice that complements existing infrastructure like the New Mexico Spaceport Authority.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Lieutenant Governor's Office functions as an appointing authority. The Economic Development Department (EDD) is the lead agency responsible for providing necessary staff and administrative support. The office's primary administrative task is the vetting and selection of its appointees by the July 1, 2026 deadline.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The timeline is appropriately structured to deliver actionable findings within a single fiscal year, ensuring recommendations are ready for the 2027 Regular Session.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

- A primary consideration for the working group will be how a permanent Space Commission can complement and enhance the operations of the New Mexico Spaceport Authority (NMSA).
- Given that both entities would be housed within the Economic Development Department, there is a significant opportunity for administrative alignment and shared strategic goals.
- Infrastructure vs. Policy: While the NMSA focuses on the physical operations and management of Spaceport America, a permanent commission could focus on broader statewide policy, business recruitment, and the integration of the diverse aerospace sectors (commercial, tourism, military, and research).

- Structural alignment would allow New Mexico to present a unified front in national aerospace discussions, ensuring that infrastructure development at the Spaceport is supported by the statewide policy and economic initiatives led by a Commission.

ALTERNATIVES

None

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Without this bill, New Mexico lacks a unified body to represent its interests in the global aerospace market. The state risks falling behind regional competitors who have more formalized, expert-led space commissions to lobby for federal research and development dollars.

AMENDMENTS