

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: 01/21/2026 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: HB: 96 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Hochman-Vigil & Dow **Agency Name and Code** Economic Dev. Dept. - 419
Short Title: Space Commission Working Group **Number:** _____
Person Writing David W. White
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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:

HB96 creates a working group for the purpose of studying the need and viability of a Space Commission in the State of New Mexico. This working group would be tasked with making a recommendation as well as drafting a proposed structure for the Commission.

The working group's proposed composition would be a total of five (5) members with one appointment by the Governor, one appointment by the Lieutenant Governor, one appointment by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and two members to be appointed by a majority vote of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Appointees should be individuals with experience in commercialized aerospace, civil aviation, space economic development, space-related academic research or nonprofit work related to the space economy. The Bill requires that these appointments be made by July 1, 2026.

Specifically, this working group will study and develop a report containing recommendations including: 1) the feasibility of establishing a Space Commission; 2) identification of key stakeholders actively involved in civil and commercial aerospace; 3) a strategic plan for the Commission that details the authority, scope of work and responsibilities as well as educational and workforce pathways; and 4) the design for a Board of Directors for the Commission including its composition, structure, scope of work, responsibilities and budgetary requirements.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Fiscal impacts of HB96 would be negligible. The working group would be an exploratory entity with minimal expenses related to their work. Mileage and per diem as allowed in the Per Diem and Mileage Act would be afforded to the working group members for travel expenses related to their service on the working group, however, no other compensation, perquisite or allowance for their service would be granted. The Bill includes an appropriation for staff and support.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Space Commission Working Group would be supported by the staff of the Economic Development Department (EDD) who would serve in an administrative capacity. This could create concerns of overburdening existing staff without a clearer understanding of what may be required to support the working group's efforts.

To that point, there is an allowance in HB96 for the hiring of one additional staff member to support the Space Commission Working Group. Given the short timeline for the working group to submit a final report, EDD would be required to accelerate the hiring process in order to meet the working group's requirements. The outlined appropriation is for one year and a Sponsored Term position is unlikely to lead to successful hiring. For a short-term project like this, engaging a contractor is a more practical approach both from a procurement and personnel perspective.

The total fiscal impact is undetermined at this point.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

The goals and outcomes of HB96 seem to be accomplishable through the existing Technology and Innovation Network Advisory Board. The Board, established in 2025 by HB20 includes the directive for the board and the Economic Development Department to focus on developing and engaging with target sectors including space and Aerospace, among others. Membership of the Board includes experts from the New Mexico based national labs, research universities, and requires at least two experts from each target sector including space and aerospace.

A specific subcommittee can be created to conduct the proposed study, with additional public members included. Existing staff can be more seamlessly utilized with the proposed appropriation being leveraged for per diem costs, contractor costs, and additional administrative costs to complete the study within the timeline proposed by HB96.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

AMENDMENTS