

REFERENCE TITLE: Arizona space commission; strategic plan

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HB 2451

Introduced by
Representative Wilmeth

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 41-1551.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE
ARIZONA SPACE COMMISSION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 41-1551.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended
3 to read:

4 41-1551.01. Arizona space commission; board of directors;
5 membership; powers and duties; annual strategic
6 plan

7 A. The Arizona space commission is established. The commission is
8 governed by a board of directors consisting of seven members who are
9 appointed by the governor, three members who are appointed by the
10 president of the senate and three members who are appointed by the speaker
11 of the house of representatives.

12 B. When making the appointments to the board pursuant to subsection
13 A of this section, priority shall be given to all of the following:

14 1. Individuals with experience in any of the following:

15 (a) Commercial aerospace.

16 (b) Civil aviation.

17 (c) Military aerospace.

18 (d) Space economic development.

19 (e) Space-related academic research.

20 (f) Nonprofit space economy support.

21 (g) Real estate.

22 (h) Finance.

23 2. Individuals with a master's degree or above in any of the
24 following disciplines:

25 (a) Space science.

26 (b) Space engineering.

27 (c) Space technology.

28 (d) Space business.

29 (e) Space leadership.

30 (f) Space policy.

31 (g) Space law.

32 (h) Space operations.

33 3. Individuals from an early stage start-up company that focuses on
34 the development and commercialization of new technologies related to
35 space.

36 4. Individuals with experience working in industries that are based
37 in this state and that are part of the space value chain or that are in
38 downstream industries with a significant presence in this state.

39 C. The initial members shall assign themselves by lot to terms ~~of~~
40 ~~two, four and six years in office~~ EXPIRING IN 2027, 2029 AND 2031. IF THE
41 INITIAL APPOINTMENTS MADE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION OCCUR AFTER THE TERM
42 END DATE, THE INITIAL MEMBERS' TERMS SHALL EXPIRE SIX YEARS AFTER THE TERM
43 END DATE. All subsequent members of the board shall serve six-year terms
44 in office. All vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the
45 initial appointment within thirty days after the vacancy.

1 D. The board shall:

2 1. Elect a chairperson from among the members of the board.

3 2. Direct the activities of, establish goals for and provide
4 oversight of the commission.

5 3. Establish standards to ensure the proper use of fund monies.

6 4. Identify research and funding opportunities within this state
7 that do the following:

8 (a) Strengthen and enhance this state's position in civil,
9 commercial and military aeronautics research and development and space
10 flight infrastructure.

11 (b) Enhance the integration of the space aeronautics, astronautics
12 and aviation industries in this state.

13 (c) Promote and research materials derived from or developed
14 through space exploration and space flight.

15 5. Promote and assist developing workforce training to advance
16 emerging technologies required for all aspects of space exploration.

17 6. Solicit proposals for funding and research opportunities related
18 to the objectives of this section.

19 E. The board may:

20 1. Appoint an ad hoc advisory committee as necessary to carry out
21 the board's duties pursuant to this section.

22 2. Acquire and convey property or an interest in property in this
23 state.

24 3. Engage in planning and implementing, ~~of~~ ASTRONAUTICS AND
25 aerospace-related educational opportunities in this state.

26 F. The authority shall provide staff support to the commission.

27 G. The commission shall develop and annually update a strategic
28 plan for promoting and expanding space, aeronautics and aviation in this
29 state, including a list of potential projects to further the purposes of
30 the commission. The commission shall include both of the following for
31 each potential project:

32 1. The estimated total cost for the project, including any
33 available matching state monies.

34 2. An assessment of the availability of external funding sources.

35 H. The board shall conduct a hearing to review and amend or approve
36 the strategic plan.

37 I. On or before December 31, ~~2024~~ 2026 and each even-numbered year
38 thereafter, the commission shall submit the strategic plan to the
39 governor, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
40 representatives.

1 Sec. 2. Retroactivity

2 Section 41-1551.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by this
3 act, applies retroactively to from and after December 30, 2025.

4 Sec. 3. Emergency

5 This act is an emergency measure that is necessary to preserve the
6 public peace, health or safety and is operative immediately as provided by
7 law.