

REFERENCE TITLE: Arizona space commission; board; membership

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SB 1620

Introduced by
Senators Gowan: Shamp

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 plan

6 A. The Arizona space commission is established. The commission is
7 governed by a board of directors consisting of ~~seven~~ SIX members who are
8 appointed by the governor, three members who are appointed by the
9 president of the senate, ~~and~~ three members who are appointed by the
10 speaker of the house of representatives AND THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, WHO
11 SHALL SERVE AS THE CHAIRPERSON.

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 GOVERNOR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE
40 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL SERVE ON THE BOARD AS NONVOTING ADVISORY
41 MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT COUNTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE PRESENCE OF
42 A QUORUM.

43 ~~E.~~ D. The initial members shall assign themselves by lot to terms
44 of two, four and six years in office. All subsequent members of the board
45 shall serve six-year terms in office. All vacancies shall be filled in

1 the same manner as the initial appointment within thirty days after the
2 vacancy.

3 ~~D.~~ E. The board shall:

4 ~~1. Elect a chairperson from among the members of the board.~~

5 ~~2.~~ 1. Direct the activities of, establish goals for and provide
6 oversight of the commission.

7 ~~3.~~ 2. Establish standards to ensure the proper use of fund monies.

8 ~~4.~~ 3. Identify research and funding opportunities within this
9 state that do the following:

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

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

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

17 ~~5.~~ 4. Promote and assist developing workforce training to advance
18 emerging technologies required for all aspects of space exploration.

19 ~~6.~~ 5. Solicit proposals for funding and research opportunities
20 related to the objectives of this section.

21 ~~F.~~ F. The board may:

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

24 2. Acquire and convey property or an interest in property in this
25 state.

26 3. Engage in planning and implementing of aerospace-related
27 educational opportunities in this state.

28 ~~F.~~ G. The authority shall provide staff support to the commission.

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

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

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

37 ~~H.~~ I. The board shall conduct a hearing to review and amend or
38 approve the strategic plan.

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

1 Sec. 2. Retention of members

2 Notwithstanding section 41-1551.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, as
3 amended by this act, all persons serving as members of the Arizona space
4 commission board of directors on the effective date of this act may
5 continue to serve until the expiration of their normal terms. All
6 subsequent appointments shall be as prescribed by statute.

7 Sec. 3. Effective date

8 This act is effective from and after December 31, 2026.