

SB0062S02 compared with SB0062

{Omitted text} shows text that was in SB0062 but was omitted in SB0062S02

inserted text shows text that was not in SB0062 but was inserted into SB0062S02

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Spaceport Exploration Committee

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jerry W. Stevenson

House Sponsor: Val L. Peterson

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates the Spaceport Exploration Committee.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- creates the Spaceport Exploration Committee; and
- establishes membership and duties of the committee.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

- This bill appropriates \$1,000,000 in operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 2026, all of which is from the various sources as detailed in this bill.

None

AMENDS:

63I-1-272 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 5 , as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 5

ENACTS:

72-10-1301 , Utah Code Annotated 1953 , Utah Code Annotated 1953

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20 **72-10-1302** , Utah Code Annotated 1953 , Utah Code Annotated 1953

21 **72-10-1303** , Utah Code Annotated 1953 , Utah Code Annotated 1953

22

23 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

24 Section 1. Section **63I-1-272** is amended to read:

25 **63I-1-272. Repeal dates: Title 72.**

26 (1) Section 72-2-134, Transportation Infrastructure General Fund Support Subfund, is repealed July 1,
2027.

28 (2) Title 72, Chapter 4, Part 3, Utah State Scenic Byway Program, is repealed January 2, 2030.

30 (3) Title 72, Chapter 10, Part 13, Spaceport Exploration Committee, is repealed July 1, 2027.

32 Section 2. Section **2** is enacted to read:

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CHAPTER 10. AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ACT

34

Part 13. Spaceport Exploration Committee

35 **72-10-1301. Definitions.**

As used in this part:

37 (1) "Committee" means the Spaceport Exploration Committee created in Section 72-10-1302.

39 (2) "Spaceport feasibility study" means a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a spaceport
and that includes:

41 (a) a market analysis that evaluates the demand for space launch services, including potential
government, commercial, and international customers and competitors;

43 (b) an economic impact assessment that analyzes the projected economic benefits of developing a
spaceport, including job creation, local business growth, revenue generation, and an analysis of
projected customers that could use the spaceport;

46 (c) a business case that describes how the spaceport could meet customer needs and attract private
financing for the spaceport;

48 (d) detailed cost estimates for construction, operation, and maintenance of a spaceport, including
infrastructure, technology, and human resources;

50 (e) consideration of the activities at the spaceport that the committee identifies the spaceport should
support; and

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- (f) in consultation with the Utah National Guard and the Utah Test and Training Range, an assessment of opportunities to leverage military airspace and infrastructure and uses the military might have for a spaceport.
- 55 (3) "Spaceport siting assessment" means an assessment that is informed by the results of a spaceport feasibility study to determine potential locations for a spaceport that includes an analysis of:
- 58 (a) the extent to which the site can accomplish the spaceport objectives that the committee identifies;
- 60 (b) geographic and environmental considerations, including the site's size, location, and environmental impact;
- 62 (c) whether the site is remote enough to minimize risk to populated areas and complies with environmental regulations;
- 64 (d) infrastructure needs, including existing infrastructure and upgrades needed to support spaceport resources including launchpads, control centers, roads, utilities, and facilities;
- 67 (e) potential sources of significant infrastructure upgrades;
- 68 (f) accessibility, including consideration for the site's accessibility for transportation and logistics;
- 70 (g) connections to major highways, airports, and ports;
- 71 (h) regulatory compliance with applicable federal law, including regulations from the Federal Aviation Administration and Environmental Protection Agency;
- 73 (i) resources the state may leverage for a particular site, including tax benefits, land ownership, land use authority, and regulatory benefits; and
- 75 (j) activities that the committee identifies that the spaceport should support.
- 76 (4) "Supported activities" means the types of activities that could occur at a spaceport including:
- 78 (a) satellite launches;
- 79 (b) scientific missions;
- 80 (c) national defense missions;
- 81 (d) commercial space flights;
- 82 (e) space exploration;
- 83 (f) space cargo and resupply missions;
- 84 (g) space tourism; and
- 85 (h) space industry research and development.
- 86 Section 3. Section 3 is enacted to read:
- 87 **72-10-1302. Spaceport Exploration Committee creation.**

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- 88 (1) There is created the Spaceport Exploration Committee, comprising of the following members:
- 90 (a) two members of the Senate, whom the president of the Senate appoints;
- 91 (b) two members of the House of Representatives, whom the speaker of the House of Representatives
appoints;
- 93 (c) the executive director of the department or the executive director's designee;
- 94 ~~{(d) {the president of a nonprofit organization owned by Utah State University that is a University~~
~~Affiliated Research Center that specializes in aerospace technology, missions, and defense;}}~~
- 97 ~~{(e)}~~ (d) the executive director of the Utah Inland Port Authority created in Section 11-58-201;
- 98 ~~{(f) {the range director from the Utah Testing and Training Range at Hill Air Force Base or the range~~
~~director's designee;}}~~
- 95 (e) the president, or the president's designee, of a nonprofit organization owned by Utah State
University that is a University Affiliated Research Center that specializes in aerospace technology,
missions, and defense;
- 98 (f) two liaisons from local military organizations, whom the co-chairs jointly appoint;
- 100 (g) the president of the state's largest aerospace and defense industry group as certified by the executive
director of the department;
- 102 (h) ~~the {Utah adjutant general described in Section 39A-1-201}~~ executive director of an international
airport within a county of the first class, or the {adjutant general's} executive director's
designee;
{and}
- 104 (i) four members that the governor appoints as follows:
- 105 (i) one member from the propulsion division of a large defense contractor in the state;
- 106 (ii) one member from a national law firm with expertise in space law;
- 107 (iii) one member representing a company located in the state that produces specialty chemicals for the
aerospace and defense industry; and
- 109 (iv) one member representing a nonprofit organization that:
- 110 (A) is located in Utah;
- 111 (B) collaborates with government and private entities; and
- 112 (C) specializes in defense and aerospace matters{-}; and
- 112 (j) the executive director of the Governor's Office for Economic Opportunity or the executive director's
designee, as a nonvoting member.
- 113 (2) The following shall co-chair the committee:

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- 114 (a) a committee member that is a legislator described in Subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) whom the speaker of
the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate jointly designate; and
- 117 (b) a committee member whom the governor selects.
- 118 (3) When a vacancy occurs in the membership for any reason, the appointing authority or qualification
described in Subsection (1) applies to the replacement in the same manner as the filling of the
original position.
- 121 (4) A majority of members of the committee constitutes a quorum.
- 122 (5) A member may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's service, but may receive per
diem and travel expenses as allowed in:
- 124 (a) Section 63A-3-106;
- 125 (b) Section 63A-3-107; and
- 126 (c) rules made by the Division of Finance according to Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107.
- 128 (6) The department~~{, in conjunction with the entity described in Subsection (1)(g).}~~ shall provide
staffing and administrative support to the committee.
- 130 Section 4. Section 4 is enacted to read:
- 131 **72-10-1303. Spaceport Exploration Committee duties.**
- 132 (1) The committee shall:
- 133 (a) establish key objectives that the state should pursue in establishing a spaceport;
- 134 (b) evaluate the supported activities that would be most feasible for a spaceport in the state;
- 136 (c) conduct a spaceport feasibility study;
- 137 (d) conduct a spaceport siting assessment;
- 138 (e) evaluate the advantages and disadvantages the state has in establishing a spaceport; and
- 140 (f) make recommendations to the Legislature regarding whether it is in the state's best interest to
establish a spaceport.
- 142 (2) The committee may:
- 143 (a) authorize the department to contract with one or more consultants to perform research, analysis, and
legal work, or to provide other assistance necessary to accomplish the committee's duties; ~~{ and }~~
- 145 (b) establish any advisory committees or working groups needed to fulfill the committee's
responsibilities~~{-}~~;
- 148 (c) by majority vote, add up to three non-voting committee members; and
- 149 (d) appoint one or more working groups to advise and assist the committee.

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- 147 (3) The committee shall:
148 (a) create a report that:
149 (i) details the committee's conclusions on the items described in Subsection (1); and
150 (ii) includes recommendations on legislation needed to implement the committee's conclusions; and
152 (b) report to the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee and the
Transportation Interim Committee no later than September 30, 2026.

157 Section . **FY 2026 Appropriations.**

158 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
159 2025, and ending June 30, 2026. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
160 fiscal year 2026.

161 Subsection 5(a). **Operating and Capital Budgets**

162 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the
163 Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts indicated for
164 the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

165 To Transportation - Aeronautics

166 1,000,000

168 Schedule of Programs:

169 1,000,000

154 Section . **FY 2026 Appropriation.**

155 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
156 2025, and ending June 30, 2026. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
157 fiscal year 2026.

158 Subsection 5(a). **Operating and Capital Budgets**

159 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the
160 Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts indicated for
161 the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

162 To Transportation - Support Services

163 500,000

164 Schedule of Programs:

165 500,000

. The Legislature intends

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170 Section 6. **Effective date.**

This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.

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