

SENATE, No. 500

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRIS A. BROWN

District 2 (Atlantic)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Beach

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Atlantic City International Airport Spaceport Feasibility Study Commission.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the “Atlantic City International Airport
2 Spaceport Feasibility Study Commission.”

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. space tourism is expected to be a \$34 billion dollar industry
9 by 2021;

10 b. the casinos in Atlantic City and the Federal Aviation
11 Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center represent the
12 first and third largest employers in Atlantic County;

13 c. economic development is being encouraged in the area
14 encompassing the Atlantic City International Airport, the National
15 Aviation Research and Technology Park, and the Federal Aviation
16 Administration William J. Hughes Technical Center under New
17 Jersey’s Garden State Growth Zone Program and through the area’s
18 designation as a federal Opportunity Zone;

19 d. the federal “Commercial Space Launch Act of 1984,” 51
20 U.S.C. s.50901 et seq., encourages, promotes, and facilitates the
21 growth of commercial space launches; and

22 e. in the United States, there are currently 11 launch sites that
23 have been licensed under the “Commercial Space Launch Act of
24 1984.”

25

26 2. a. There is established, in but not of the South Jersey
27 Transportation Authority, a study commission to be known as the
28 “Atlantic City International Airport Spaceport Feasibility Study
29 Commission.”

30 b. The study commission shall consist of nine members as
31 follows:

32 (1) the Executive Director of the South Jersey Transportation
33 Authority or the Executive Director’s designee, who shall serve ex
34 officio;

35 (2) an expert in federal aviation regulation, preferably an expert
36 serving, or with past experience, as an official or executive at the
37 Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical
38 Center;

39 (3) an individual with a background in higher education who is
40 affiliated with Stockton University and the National Aviation
41 Research and Technology Park;

42 (4) an individual with expertise in aerospace or astronautical
43 engineering who is affiliated with an institution of higher education
44 in New Jersey, other than Stockton University;

45 (5) two individuals who reside within 10 miles of the Atlantic
46 City International Airport to represent the interests of residents in
47 the area;

1 (6) two business owners who operate businesses within 10 miles
2 of the Atlantic City International Airport to represent the interests
3 of businesses in the area; and

4 (7) an individual with expertise in the tourism sector to
5 represent the tourist industry.

6 Except for the Executive Director of the South Jersey
7 Transportation Authority, the Governor shall appoint the members
8 of the study commission.

9 c. The members of the study commission shall serve for a term
10 that commences on a member's date of appointment and ends one
11 year after the enactment date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
12 before the Legislature as this bill). Vacancies in the membership of
13 the study commission shall be filled for the unexpired term in the
14 same manner as the original appointment.

15 d. The members shall be appointed within 60 days following
16 the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
17 Legislature as this bill). The study commission shall organize as
18 soon as practicable after the appointment of a majority of its
19 members and shall select a chair from among its members, and a
20 secretary who need not be a member of the study commission. The
21 presence of five members of the study commission shall constitute a
22 quorum. The study commission may conduct business without a
23 quorum, but may only vote on the issuance of the report required to
24 be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature pursuant to
25 subsection g. of this section, and on any recommendations, when a
26 quorum is present.

27 e. All commission members shall serve without compensation,
28 but shall be eligible for reimbursement of necessary and reasonable
29 expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties within
30 the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the
31 study commission for its purposes.

32 f. The study commission shall meet and hold public hearings at
33 the place or places it designates.

34 g. The study commission shall study the feasibility of the
35 Atlantic City International Airport successfully pursuing, and
36 economically maintaining, licensing as a lateral or captive carry
37 launch site through the Federal Aviation Administration's Office of
38 Commercial Space Transportation in accordance with the
39 requirements of 51 U.S.C. s.50905 and any other applicable federal
40 law, rule, or regulation. The study commission shall not investigate,
41 study, or otherwise consider pursuing licensing of the Atlantic City
42 International Airport as a vertical launch site. The study
43 commission shall issue a report to the Governor and the Legislature,
44 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later
45 than one year after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.)
46 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The report shall
47 include:

1 (1) an analysis of the expected costs of pursuing licensing of a
2 launch or reentry site at or near the Atlantic City International
3 Airport, and being so licensed;

4 (2) an assessment of the potential impacts that licensing would
5 have on the economic vitality of the South Jersey region and quality
6 of life for the region's residents; and

7 (3) any recommendations that the study commission deems
8 appropriate.

9 h. The South Jersey Transportation Authority shall be
10 responsible for the costs of the study commission and provide
11 administrative assistance and support to the study commission, as
12 requested by the study commission.

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14 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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17 STATEMENT

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19 This bill establishes an "Atlantic City International Airport
20 Spaceport Feasibility Study Commission" (study commission) in
21 but not of the South Jersey Transportation Authority.

22 Under the bill the study commission is to consist of nine
23 members:

24 (1) the Executive Director of the South Jersey Transportation
25 Authority or the Executive Director's designee, who is required to
26 serve ex officio;

27 (2) an expert in federal aviation regulation, preferably an expert
28 serving, or with past experience, as an official or executive at the
29 Federal Aviation Administration William J. Hughes Technical
30 Center;

31 (3) an individual with a background in higher education who is
32 affiliated with Stockton University and the National Aviation
33 Research and Technology Park;

34 (4) an individual with expertise in aerospace or aeronautical
35 engineering who is affiliated with an institution of higher education
36 in New Jersey, other than Stockton University;

37 (5) two individuals who reside within 10 miles of the Atlantic
38 City International Airport (airport);

39 (6) two business owners who operate businesses within 10 miles
40 of the airport; and

41 (7) an individual with expertise in the tourism sector.

42 The bill requires the Governor to appoint the members of the
43 study commission, except for the Executive Director of the South
44 Jersey Transportation Authority. Under the bill, the members of the
45 study commission are to serve for a term that commences on a
46 member's date of appointment and ends one year after the
47 enactment date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
48 Legislature as this bill).

1 The bill requires that members be appointed within 60 days
2 following the effective date of the bill and the study commission is
3 required to organize as soon as practicable after the appointment of
4 a majority of members. All members are required to serve without
5 compensation, but are eligible for reimbursement of necessary and
6 reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their official
7 duties within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made
8 available to the study commission for its purposes. Under the bill,
9 the study commission is required to meet and hold public hearings
10 at the place or places it designates.

11 The bill requires the study commission to study the feasibility of
12 the airport successfully pursuing, and economically maintaining,
13 licensing as a lateral or captive carry launch site through the Federal
14 Aviation Administration's Office of Commercial Space
15 Transportation in accordance with federal law, rules, and
16 regulations. The study commission is specifically prohibited from
17 investigating, studying, or otherwise considering pursuing licensing
18 of the Atlantic City International Airport as a vertical launch site.
19 The study commission is required to issue a report to the Governor
20 and the Legislature no later than one year after the effective date of
21 the bill. The report is required to include:

- 22 (1) an analysis of the expected costs of pursuing licensing of a
23 launch or reentry site at or near the airport, and being so licensed;
24 (2) an assessment of the potential impacts that licensing would
25 have on the economic vitality of the South Jersey region and quality
26 of life for the region's residents; and
27 (3) any recommendations that the study commission deems
28 appropriate.

29 Under the bill, the South Jersey Transportation Authority is to be
30 responsible for the costs of the study commission and provide
31 administrative assistance and support to the study commission.