

FAA to study fiscal impact on airports when Trump visits

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For The Star-Ledger

Each time President Donald Trump visits Trump National Golf Course in Bedminster, the two local airports — Solberg and Somerset — lose an estimated \$10,000 in profits, according to the New Jersey Aviation Association.

That's because Federal Aviation Administration temporary flight restrictions prevent flights in and out of airports within 10 nautical miles and imposes other limits within 30 nautical miles.

The House of Representatives voted Friday to have the FAA study the economic impact of such restrictions on local airports and look at ways to ease the problem. The provision was part of legislation renewing FAA operations for five years.

"This is about fairness for New Jersey pilots and small businesses," said Rep. Leonard Lance, R-7th Dist., whose district includes Bedminster and who sponsored the provision. "I want to find a compromise with the Federal Aviation Administration and the Secret Service so that pilots can be vetted, prescreened and allowed to fly."

The study also would take in the area about

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Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, where planes at local airports also are grounded when he visits.

Lance said special provisions are made for the local airports near Washington, so they should also be available for those near Bedminster.

The FAA bill drops the initial House Republican proposal to turn air traffic control over to a private corporation.

It includes several research projects likely to involve the FAA Technical Center in Egg Harbor Township, including drones, cybersecurity and unleaded aviation fuel.

"I share in the goal of strengthening our aviation system to meet 21st century demands while ensuring our FAA Technical Center has a leading role in this effort," said Rep. Frank LoBiondo, R-2nd Dist., chairman of the aviation subcommittee.