
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 411 Session of 2003

INTRODUCED BY MCGILL, GEIST, MCCALL, FAIRCHILD, ARMSTRONG,
CAPPELLI, CRUZ, DALEY, DALLY, DENLINGER, DeWEESE, FABRIZIO,
FORCIER, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, LAUGHLIN, LEH,
McNAUGHTON, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, CORNELL, BUNT, FICHTER,
EGOLF, T. STEVENSON, STAIRS, HABAY, SEMMEL, WATSON AND JAMES,
SEPTEMBER 29, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,
SEPTEMBER 29, 2003

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secret Service
2 and the Federal Aviation Administration to consider reducing
3 the size of Presidential movement temporary flight
4 restrictions.
5 WHEREAS, General aviation accounts for over 637,000 jobs
6 nationwide with an economic impact exceeding \$102 billion
7 annually; and
8 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Department of
9 Transportation, Bureau of Aviation, over 698,000 visitors arrive
10 in Pennsylvania via general aviation aircraft, providing almost
11 \$54 million to Pennsylvania's economy; and
12 WHEREAS, During a presidential visit to any area in the
13 nation, each general aviation airport site has a temporary
14 flight restriction (TFR) imposed, affecting all general aviation
15 operations within a 30-nautical-mile radius or more and
16 prohibiting any general aviation flight within ten nautical

1 miles; and

2 WHEREAS, These restrictions do not affect scheduled passenger
3 airline flights, air cargo flights, law enforcement helicopters
4 or life flight helicopters; and

5 WHEREAS, General aviation is singled out for these
6 restrictions; and

7 WHEREAS, Government officials cite nonspecific security
8 threats as a rationale for expanding the standard Presidential
9 movement TFR from a former three-mile to five-mile radius to the
10 current 30 miles; and

11 WHEREAS, During a recent visit of President George W. Bush to
12 Philadelphia, there were 45 airports impacted by the TFR; and

13 WHEREAS, An 80-nautical-mile-wide swath of some of the most
14 heavily used airspace on the East Coast was impacted; and

15 WHEREAS, The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)
16 denounced the FAA's late release of a notice to airmen (NOTAM)
17 establishing the Philadelphia TFR; and

18 WHEREAS, The NOTAM did not come out until after 7 p.m.
19 Wednesday for a Thursday morning visit by the President; and

20 WHEREAS, Pilots were given less than 12-hours' notice,
21 trapping some at airports affected by the TFR as operators were
22 not given enough notice to relocate their aircraft outside the
23 boundaries of the TFR; and

24 WHEREAS, At the Presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland,
25 the prohibited area is a ten-nautical-mile radius when the
26 President visits, but security officials have recently proposed
27 making it a 30-nautical-mile radius; and

28 WHEREAS, The proposed TFR area would stretch from
29 Pennsylvania to Virginia and West Virginia, affecting operations
30 at about a dozen airports, and would leave a corridor less than

1 ten nautical miles wide between the Camp David restricted
2 airspace and the 15-nautical-mile radius no-fly zone around
3 Washington, D.C., and access to even that narrow gap would be
4 restricted because it falls entirely within the Washington Air
5 Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ); and

6 WHEREAS, There are not specific numbers on the lost revenue
7 for these airports, but the typical general aviation airport
8 with 100 based aircraft and no air carrier service is estimated
9 to have a transportation benefit of \$1 million annually; and

10 WHEREAS, This \$1 million does not include the following
11 indirect economic benefits:

12 (1) each dollar spent by general aviation and an
13 aviation-dependent business generates an additional \$1.52 in
14 economic activity;

15 (2) for every job at an airport, nearly three are
16 created in the visitor-related economy; and

17 (3) aviation-related businesses contribute \$105 million
18 in local taxes;

19 and

20 WHEREAS, Because TFR airspace frequently changes, AOPA
21 strongly encourages pilots to obtain a briefing and check NOTAMS
22 before every flight; and

23 WHEREAS, Violators are intercepted and forced to land; and

24 WHEREAS, On July 25, 2003, a pipeline patrol pilot on a
25 legitimate flight confronted an F-16 and 30 drawn guns after
26 accidentally overflying President Bush's motorcade in
27 Philadelphia; and

28 WHEREAS, After the forced landing and interrogation of the
29 unnamed pilot, the Secret Service released him, concluding he
30 posed no threat; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, air traffic
2 controllers from Philadelphia International Airport had tried
3 unsuccessfully to contact the pilot as he approached the
4 motorcade route; and

5 WHEREAS, Frequently pilots experience delays as air traffic
6 controllers search for flight plans they had not received, or
7 pilots circle when controllers cannot find a flight plan on
8 file; and

9 WHEREAS, AOPA has also received multiple reports of pilots
10 calling on a landline to receive a beacon code and not being
11 able to get through; and

12 WHEREAS, On several occasions, confused pilots transmitted on
13 the wrong frequency or were handed off to the wrong controller;
14 therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
16 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Secretary of Homeland
17 Security, the Secret Service and the Federal Aviation
18 Administration to consider reducing the size of Presidential
19 movement TFRs and to reconsider the need to issue such
20 restrictions based on nonspecific threats and ways to improve
21 the timely dissemination of flight restriction information to
22 pilots; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
24 the President of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland
25 Security, the Director of the Secret Service, the Director of
26 the Federal Aviation Administration and each member of Congress
27 from Pennsylvania.