

Copter route study OKd

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Long [Islanders](#) who have long complained about helicopter noise during the summer season could be a step closer to some peace and quiet because of a measure passed by federal lawmakers.

The provision proposed by Rep. [Tim Bishop](#) (D-Southampton) calls for the Federal Aviation Administration to study helicopter flights over [Long Island](#).

The stipulation, which was part of the FAA Reauthorization Act, was passed Thursday by the House and now moves to the Senate. "Those of us who live in Suffolk County are tired of the roar of helicopters disrupting the serenity of our island," Bishop said in a statement Friday.

The provision will address specific concerns about helicopter traffic over Long Island, including the possibility of establishing fixed routes and altitudes for choppers. It calls for the FAA to submit its findings to Congress within six months.

Local elected officials have long fielded complaints about helicopter noise, especially from residents of the [East End](#), where the choppers are a popular way for the affluent to travel between [Manhattan](#) and the Hamptons.

In 2007, Sen. Charles Schumer and Bishop brokered an informal pact with helicopter operators and airports to fly helicopters at 2,500 feet or higher and avoid some populated areas. But even after the deal was reached, complaints about loud helicopter noise persisted. "A significant problem still exists, so I have directed the FAA to take action," Bishop said.

FAA spokesman Jim Peters declined to comment on the legislation.

A spokesman for the Eastern Region Helicopter Council, which represents the operators of about 90 percent of East End flights, did not return calls for comment.

Schumer on Friday praised the new measure as "a golden opportunity to finally bring some peace and quiet to Long Island neighborhoods." "The days of helicopters roaring over Long Island communities need to come to an end," Schumer said in a statement.