

HB

248

<TARGET><BILL>HB 248</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
248</SUBJECT><COMM>HF IN27</COMM></TARGET>

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau

State Capitol Bldg., Rm. 104
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-4527
Fax (907) 465-2197



Interim

1292 Sadler Way, Ste 328
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone (907) 452-3434
Fax (907) 452-3430
Toll-Free (800) 491-4527

Representative Alan Dick

House District 6

Sponsor Statement

HB 248: Al Wright Airport (Minto)

Al Wright was born at Tanana Crossing on April 26, 1925 to Arthur and Myrtle Wright, missionaries in the Minto Flats area. Arthur Wright was Athabascan Indian and Myrtle was white. Mrs. Wright was one of the first nurses in the villages. In 1930 the family moved to Minto.

The Wright family lived a subsistence lifestyle. In Minto his dad tried to start a school. He had a hard time because the kids had to go back to seasonal subsistence camps. Each child would bring a stick of wood as tuition. When the wood ran out that ended the school day.

When Al was nine, they moved to Nenana where his father started work in the shipyard. His family also cut and sold wood for \$8.00 a cord with a Sears&Roebuck wood saw. They dragged the wood with a model-T vehicle back to the village to sell.

Al was 15 when he started in construction on defense projects all over Interior Alaska. He had no formal training and learned as he went along. His skills were in high demand on the defense projects, however he wanted to join the Army. The only way he could leave his job was to quit the construction work and get drafted. When he got out of the Army, he found out he could get his pilot's license with the G.I. bill. He originally started for fun, but never got away from flying.

His first plane was a 65 Taylorcraft. One day a man asked to charter him to pick up furs. He said, "boy, this is the way to make money." From then on he started hauling trappers and developing a business. His first charter was \$20.00 an hour with fuel, plane and pilot. He taught himself to fly with floats. With no formal training, his first flight was to pick up a dying man in a Minto fish camp. He flew about 200 hours before he was forced to get an official float

rating. He had trouble getting ratings and licenses, because he had little education. He struggled his whole life because he never learned how to read well, write or spell. He quit school after the sixth grade as he took on more seasonal work with the family.

Al started Wright's Air Service in 1950 which continued to grow in Interior Alaska. His focus was on maintaining high standards with maintenance and with his employees. He was the critical link for scheduled mail and charter flights to about 20 villages. Wright's Air today is a well-known charter operation in the Interior, supporting government surveys, seasonal camps, firefighting, land surveying and hunting expeditions. In 1983 Al sold his airline to long-time friend and pilot, Bob Burcell. Bob continues to run the airline with the same old time values, kindness and respect Al had for his people and villages.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA cost # codes
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version HB 248
Fiscal Note Number 1
Publish Date 2/8/12 (H)

Identifier (file name) HB248-DOT-NRHA-2-4-12 Dept. Affected DOT&PF
Title Al Wright Airport Appropriation Highways, Aviation and Facilities
Allocation Northern Region Highways & Aviation
Sponsor Rep. Alan Dick
Requester H TRA OMB Component Number 2068

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY13 Appropriation Requested	included in Governor's FY13 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY13	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002	Federal Receipts							
1003	GF Match							
1004	GF							
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)							
1037	GF/MH (UGF)							
1178	temp code (UGF)							
TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

CHANGE IN REVENUES

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY12) operating costs _____ (separate supplemental appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY13) costs _____ (separate capital appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Initial Version

Prepared by Brenda Hewitt, Legislative Liaison
Division Commissioner's Office
Approved by Pat Kemp
Deputy Commissioner

Phone 465-4772
Date/Time 2/4/12 12:00 PM
Date 2/5/2012 2:30PM

FISCAL NOTE #1

STATE OF ALASKA
2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 248

Analysis

This bill authorizes in statute the name Al Wright Airport for the airport in Minto. The community has already named the building and has a sign erected and therefore there is no fiscal impact to DOT&PF.