

**HB**

**94**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 94</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
94</SUBJECT><COMM>STRA28</COMM></TARGET>

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/25/13

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 4/4/13

**Transportation Committee** considered HOUSE BILL NO. 94

## HB 94 CON AND NELLIE MILLER BRIDGES

"An Act naming the northbound Chena Flood Channel Crossing Bridge the Nellie Miller Bridge and naming the southbound Chena Flood Channel Crossing Bridge the Con Miller Bridge."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)  Same Title  Technical Title Change  
 New Title/SCR No. \_\_\_\_\_
- adopt previous SCS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)  Same Title  Technical Title Change  
 New Title/SCR No. \_\_\_\_\_
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
DOT	✓			1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	Do PASS	Do NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Dyson	✓			
	FAIRCLOUGH	✓			
	Bishop	✓			
	Frank	✓			
CHAIR:		✓			

# Alaska State Legislature House of Representatives

Rep.Doug.Isaacson@akleg.gov

Representative Doug Isaacson

*Interim*

301 Santa Claus Lane  
North Pole, AK 99705

*Session*

State Capitol  
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## SPONSOR STATEMENT HB94

\*\*\*The naming of Chena Flood Channel Crossing Northbound Bridge #1364 as the Nellie Miller Bridge; and the Chena Flood Channel Crossing Southbound Bridge #1866 as the Con Miller Bridge.\*\*\*

Conrad "Con" and Nellie Miller were some of the early settlers of the City of North Pole, arriving there in 1950. Con joined the Navy after leaving home at the age of 15 and served in China from 1927 to 1931. He worked on the construction of the Hoover Dam after a brief stint as a sheriff and private investigator. He later re-enlisted in the Navy during World War II, serving in the South Pacific.

Nellie was one of 15 children raised in Idaho Springs, Colorado and married Con in 1938 at the age of 15. Like many of Alaska's early pioneers, Nellie and Con moved to Alaska in 1950 with \$1.40 in their pocket and seeking a new beginning for their small family.

Con and Nellie Miller built their first business, a clothing store, in Fairbanks and Con travelled to rural communities to sell his wares. When he travelled, he often donned a red crushed velvet Santa suit, part of the stock the couple brought north from a previous business. As they began to build their store in North Pole in 1952, a child of a customer from Northway asked Con if he was building a house for Santa Claus and the name stuck. The store became Santa Claus House.

Con and Nellie were known as Santa and Mrs. Claus and their family store brought worldwide attention to the City of North Pole, Alaska. The store has grown and evolved over time into the icon that stands today, including the 42-foot, 900 pound Santa Claus statue outside that entices visitors from around the globe to celebrate Christmas year-around.

Con was the longest serving mayor of North Pole, dedicating 19 years of leadership. In 1952 he carried the city's incorporation papers to Juneau. He also served as North Pole's postmaster and civil defense director for 20 years as well as serving as the fire chief. Nellie served on the local school board, as the postmistress and as the town's magistrate and marriage commissioner.

The Millers raised three children: sons, Terry and Mike; and daughter, Merry Christmas Miller. Their two sons served in both the Alaska State House and the Alaska State Senate and hold the distinction of being the only two siblings in the United States to have presided as Senate President. Terry Miller also served as Lt. Governor.

For their commitment to Alaska and their role in developing the City of North Pole, it is fitting that the Chena Flood Channel Bridges be named for these two distinguished Alaskans. The Northbound Bridge #1364 shall be known as the Nellie Miller Bridge and the Southbound Bridge #1866 shall be known as the Con Miller Bridge.

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 94  
Fiscal Note Number: 1  
(H) Publish Date: 2/20/13

Identifier: HB094-DOT-NRHA-2-14-13  
Title: CON AND NELLIE MILLER BRIDGES  
Sponsor: ISAACSON  
Requester: House Transportation Committee

Department: Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Appropriation: Highways, Aviation and Facilities  
Allocation: Northern Region Highways and Aviation  
OMB Component Number: 2068

**Expenditures/Revenues**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2014	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2014 Request	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities	6.9						
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

1004 Gen Fund	6.9						
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

<b>Change in Revenues</b>							
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2013) cost: 0.0

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0

**ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS**

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No  
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:**

This is the initial version of the bill.

Prepared By: Connie McKenzie  
Division: Office of the Commissioner  
Approved By: Mary Siroky  
Administrative Services Director

Phone: (907)465-4772  
Date: 02/14/2013 04:00 PM  
Date: 02/14/13

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS #1

STATE OF ALASKA  
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 94

**Analysis**

There are 2 bridges listed in the (draft) bill. (northbound = #1364, and southbound = #1866 crossings)  
Each would only need one sign, because the two bridges are each "one way" over the spillway, so the signs needed would be installed on the traffic-entry end, identifying that bridge to travelers.

By regulation each sign, per MUTCD (Manual on Traffic Control Devices) is required to have white letters on blue background. Posts are required to be 3" x 3" tube steel w/frangible couplings. Posts must be set in concrete for breakaway performance. (Augured hole must be 12" diameter x 3' deep, minimum)

Sizes would be 24" tall x 96" long:

Cost of material for each bridge sign is           \$ 3,450/per sign

2 signs total (just 1 per bridge)                   \$6,900

## Brenda Hewitt

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**From:** Peter Marshall, M.D. <docmarshall@mosquionet.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 8:35 AM  
**To:** Rep. Peggy Wilson  
**Cc:** Rep. Doug Isaacson; Brenda Hewitt  
**Subject:** Writing in support of HB 94

Dear Peggy Wilson:

I am writing in support of HB 94, a bill to name a local landmark - the flood control bridge on the Richardson Highway just outside our town of North Pole , after Conrad and Nellie Miller.

### THE FOUNDING FATHER OF OUR TOWN

Conrad Miller actually invented the City of North Pole, the town where I live and practice as the town's only medical doctor. When he arrived in 1950, North Pole was just a wide spot on the Richardson Highway, at that time a winding 2-lane road. Gradually over the years he made it *the* community where people preferred to live, even those who worked in Fairbanks. During his years of service as mayor he established many of the traditions, landmarks and amenities which make North Pole the attractive city that it is today. Because of this alone, he richly deserves this honor, but there is more.

### A REMARKABLE FAMILY

Con & Nellie's sons Terry and Mike continued the tradition of public service established by Con himself when they became members of the legislature. Terry went on to distinguish himself as Lt. Governor. In addition the family has carried on with the store that Con & Nellie founded which is an landmark and a destination for both visitors and locals. Santa Claus House, was built and continues as the embodiment of Con Miller's dream to make North Pole a unique and special place.

### A PERSONAL RECOLLECTION

During the first decade of my 28 years of practice in North Pole, it was my privilege to know the Millers and to be their physician. I have personally observed Con Miller's passion and dedication to the cause of beautifying, publicizing and improving the town that he founded. It is seldom that we encounter a man like Con Miller, a man who had the vision and the motivation to create something of lasting value. This initiative to name this landmark, twin bridges over the Chena Flood Control Project for Con and Nellie Miller is a fitting tribute to this distinguished Alaskan couple.

Sincerely,  
Peter Marshall

Peter Marshall, M.D. Clinic  
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907-488-4433