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Leman Bill Clarifies Property Rights

(Juneau) – Sen. Loren Leman (R-Anchorage) introduced legislation Wednesday to resolve a legal dilemma affecting some Alaskans’ right to build on or improve their property.

[SB 263](#): Acquisition of Title, will change an otherwise obscure provision of property law that has created a problem for landowners, including Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) corporations and their shareholders.

“I recently learned of this problem with property deeded to shareholders,” said Leman. “SB 263 will allow a clearer transfer of property rights.”

The legislation will help ANCSA shareholders who received property from their village corporations and were deeded only surface rights, while the regional corporations maintain sub-surface rights. This has prevented some property owners from making improvements while searching for a legal solution.

SB 263 has been referred the Senate Labor and Commerce and Judiciary committees.

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