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SB 263 Passes Senate **Will Allow Native Shareholders to Build Houses**

(Juneau) – Senate Bill 263 sponsored by Sen. Loren Leman (R-Anchorage) passed the Senate Thursday by a unanimous vote.

SB 263 changes provisions of Alaska property law that have created problems for landowners, including Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) corporations and their shareholders.

“I’m pleased that my colleagues gave this bill their unanimous support,” said Leman. “SB 263 will clarify the transfer of property rights and allow shareholders to make the same decisions about using their land as everyone else.”

ANCSA shareholders who have received property from their village corporations were originally deeded only surface rights, while regional corporations maintain sub-surface rights. This has prevented some property owners from making even basic improvements like putting in a foundation for a house.

[SB 263](#) moves to the House for consideration.

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