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Leman Bill Would Allow Two More Years Students Would Have to Pass Competency Exam in 2004

(JUNEAU) – Sen. Loren Leman (R-Anchorage) introduced legislation today to modify the time line for testing to receive a high school diploma.

Senate Bill 128 would maintain the mandatory testing date of 2002, but extends the date for required passage to receive a diploma to 2004. Students passing the tests will receive endorsements on their diploma and transcript for each portion passed. The endorsement provision will sunset in 2004, at which time passage of all three parts of the competency test will be required before a high school diploma is awarded.

‘This bill maintains the accountability and standards that nearly everyone agrees we need, but will allow two years to undertake a comprehensive and independent review of the exams’ content, as well as better align curricula to the standards,’ Leman said. ‘In the meantime, students who pass the test will be recognized for their achievement.’

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