"A bill adjusting the rules for open forum and for motions to reconsider in order to save time during meetings."

Whereas(1): The body has spent an inordinate amount of time on Motions to Reconsider, few of which have been successful; and,

Whereas(2): Visitors in Open Forum are allowed to answer questions posed by the Senate; and,

Whereas(3): There currently exists no time limit for these questions; and,

Whereas(4): Before each Open Forum, there has been a vote to limit the time for these answers to thirty (30) seconds apiece.

Therefore

Let it be

Enacted(1): That the following sub-section shall be added to Article VIII, Section V of the Senate By-Laws:

(e) Motions to Reconsider, or any variation thereof, must be seconded by one-sixth (1/6) of the Senators who voted on the prevailing side of the original motion, not including the Senator who makes the motion to reconsider.

Let it be

Further

Enacted(2): That the following amendments shall be made to Article VIII, Section IV (e) of the Senate By-Laws:
(e) An open period of no longer than one hour must be left at the beginning of every Senate Meeting to allow constituents a time to address the Senate. Open forum rules may be temporarily amended or extended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate, but the total time of open forum may not be decreased.

(1) Individuals speaking in open forum shall be limited to two and a half (2.5) minutes of speaking time and two (2) minutes to answer questions apiece. Current Texas A&M students shall be given priority for speaking in open forum. If more than twenty-four (24) students are present than can speak and answer questions in the allotted time, the sixty (60) minutes time for open forum shall be divided evenly among all students who wish to speak prior to any recognitions, with an equal amount going to speaking and to questions. [All individuals speaking in open forum may remain immediately after their speaking period to answer up to three (3) questions from the body; time for question and answer shall not be counted in any time limits.]

(2) Individuals recognized to speak in open forum may not yield their time except to the floor.

(3) Students or groups of students representing recognized student organizations shall be counted as, and given the time and questions of, two individuals as allotted above. However, no individuals who participate in the presentation from that organization may speak in open forum.

(4) All individuals speaking in open forum must sign in immediately prior to the meeting and provide their names, and if applicable, class years and residency and academic caucus information to be read to the body before they are recognized. Additionally, contact information may be provided. Individuals who fail to do this shall not be recognized as “students” for the purposes of this sub-section and may be denied time to speak in open forum.

(5) Individuals speaking in open forum may not speak on behalf of, or against, candidates or nominees in officer elections or confirmations taking place during that meeting. The Speaker must automatically end the recognition of individuals who attempt to do so.