Establishment of Course End Date Bill

"A bill to establish in the Texas A&M Student Rules that the Final Examination date and time for a course be the official end of that course."

Whereas(1): The Texas A&M Student rules do not set an official end date for a course, except for the implicit limit of when final grades are due; and

Whereas(2): The existing Student Rules Part I - §8.2 sets positive precedent by including a provision to help students do well on their exams during scheduled final examination time; and

Whereas(3): Students often wish or need to leave campus after their last scheduled final exam of the semester in order to spend time with family, return to jobs, leave for planned trips, etc.; and

Whereas(4): Students currently can be assigned and/or required to submit assignments/final projects up until the day that grades are due by the University, in addition to having a final examination for the same class; and

Whereas(5): Students now, per the University Academic Calendar, have only one reading day to prepare directly preceding final examinations; and
Whereas(6): Many students are taking six or more final exams in the few day period allocated to final examinations, which may be worth upwards of 50% of their final grade in each respective class; and

Whereas(7): Assignments can often take a very large amount of time of continuous work to complete, which could have markedly negative effects on students final exam performance or require them to stay in town five or more days past the last day of scheduled final exams, perhaps missing culturally important holidays, job start dates, etc. due to this delay.

Therefore
Let it be
Enacted(1): That the Texas A&M Student Rules be amended to include a provision that states that no gradable course material can be required to be submitted after the scheduled day and time of the course final examination per the University Academic Calendar; and

Let it be
Further
Enacted(2): That the Texas A&M Student Rules also be amended to include a provision that states that no assignment, project or otherwise gradable material may be assigned one week prior to the first final examination date, per the University Academic Calendar, or after this date in order to give students adequate time to plan their work and study schedule; and

Let it be
Further
Enacted(3): This legislation, upon passage, should be sent to the following administrators:

Michael K. Young – President of Texas A&M University
Dr. Karan L. Watson – Provost and Executive Vice President
Dr. Guy Battle – Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee Chair
Dr. Dave Parrot – Faculty Senate Rules and Regulations Committee Chair,
Executive Associate Vice President and Chief of Staff for Student Affairs
Dr. Ann L. Kenimer – Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies
Ms. Heidick – Registrar of Texas A&M University