

## Rule change proposals for 70th Legislative Session (James Reavis)

These are arranged from least controversial to most controversial.

Change #1: Fix when time begins on debate in the Committee of the Whole.

Amend H40-170(2)(a) to say:

Except as provided in subsection (2)(b), a motion for cloture is in order after at least two proponents and two opponents have spoken on a question and 30 minutes have elapsed from the point in time that the sponsor's opening remarks on the motion begin ~~end and debate on the motion begins, a motion for cloture is in order.~~

Rationale: This rule change reflects what the actual practice is: That the clock begins when the sponsor starts talking. That is when the clock at the podium gets started too. This rule was constantly ignored during the session and we all had competing clocks. I think this could be a friendly rule change that reflects what the practice is, and it could help keep debates shorter, which I am ok with. Remember, since we're not changing the cloture threshold, we can always vote against cloture if we want more debate. This is just reflecting when a cloture motion is in order.

Change #2: Reduce debate time on floor motions.

Amend H50-80(2) to say:

No representative may speak for more than ~~10~~ 5 minutes on the same question, except that a representative may have 5 minutes to close.

Rationale: While rarely used, Order of Business #9 can get nutty on motions, and every representative is allowed to yammer for up to 10 minutes. Keeping it to 5 minutes could hopefully avoid more chances for drawn-out floor sessions.

Change #3: Repeal the consent calendar.

Repeal H40-110.

Rationale: We did not use it once last session, and it sounds like it hasn't been used for multiple sessions. We are already able to debate noncontroversial bills quickly on the floor. Getting rid of the consent calendar prevents funny business in the future. It might be controversial because it is a tool for the minority leader.

Change #4: Alternate between proponents and opponents.

Amend H40-170 to add a new subsection (5) that says:

(5) When recognizing members for debate, the Chair of Committee of the Whole should strive to alternate between those favoring and those opposing the pending motion.

Rationale: This is the Braxton Mitchell counter where he had some fun calling on multiple members on one side of an issue to drag debate on a bill around. Unsure if this should be a rule. It is modeled after Mason's 91-4, so leadership should decide if it's better to propose a rule or just cite to that precedent.

Change #5: Require bills to be enrolled when the session ends.

Amend 40-160 to say:

(4) A bill that has passed both houses of the Legislature by the 90th day ~~may~~ shall be:

(a) enrolled;

(b) clerically corrected by the presiding officers, if necessary;

(c) signed by the presiding officers; and

(d) delivered to the Governor or, in the case of a bill proposing a referendum, to the Secretary of State, not later than 5 working days after the 90th legislative day.

Rationale: I am sick of the slow-walking by the coordination of the legislative leadership and the Governor to drag these vetoes out until after the legislative session ends. Many popular bills and deals were struck during the session, only to be vetoed by the Governor later. Most egregious was SB 437, which didn't get signed for months because of desired timing for a court challenge. The darn rule already requires the presiding officers to do their damn job and sign the enrolled bill. This will be some messaging that when the session is done, the bills need to get to the Governor's desk pronto. I had drafted stronger language in the prior session that could have the bill signed by the clerks if leaders dally but Everts basically blocked it. This one-word change should be fully legal though.

[Changes 1 to 3 might be noncontroversial and amenable to agreement with majority leader. Change 4 is a strategic call if we want to push it. Change 5 is a political fight. Changes 1-4 are to House Rules, Change 5 is to Joint Rules]