

1 AN ACT relating to the creation of a Commission on Race and Access to
2 Opportunity.

3 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

4 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 7 IS CREATED TO
5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 *(1) The Commission on Race and Access to Opportunity is hereby established within*
7 *the legislative department of state government. The purpose of the commission*
8 *shall be to conduct studies and research on issues where disparities may exist*
9 *across the sectors of educational equity, child welfare, health, economic*
10 *opportunity, juvenile justice, criminal justice, and any other sectors that are*
11 *deemed relevant in an effort to identify areas of improvement in providing*
12 *services and opportunities for minority communities.*

13 *(2) The commission shall be composed of the following thirteen (13) members:*

14 *(a) The executive director of the Kentucky Human Rights Commission or his or*
15 *her designee;*

16 *(b) Four (4) members of the Senate, two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the*
17 *Senate President, and two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the Senate*
18 *Minority Floor Leader;*

19 *(c) Four (4) member of the House of Representatives, two (2) of whom shall be*
20 *appointed by the Speaker of the House, and two (2) of whom shall be*
21 *appointed by the House Minority Floor Leader; and*

22 *(d) Four (4) members from the private and nonprofit sectors, universities, or*
23 *local governments who have expertise in social policy related to education,*
24 *health, economic development, or the law and who shall be appointed for up*
25 *to two (2) consecutive, three (3) year terms by the following:*

26 *1. One (1) shall be appointed by the Senate President;*

27 *2. One (1) shall be appointed by the Senate Minority Floor Leader;*

- 1 3. One (1) shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and
- 2 4. One (1) shall be appointed by the House Minority Floor Leader.
- 3 (3) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall each appoint one
- 4 (1) co-chair of the commission from among that chamber's members appointed
- 5 to the commission.
- 6 (4) Any vacancy which may occur in the membership of the commission shall be
- 7 filled by the appointing authority who made the original appointment.
- 8 (5) The commission shall have the authority to:
- 9 1. Hold monthly meetings during the interim meeting period of the General
- 10 Assembly;
- 11 2. Seek comment, testimony, documents, records, or other information from
- 12 various government agencies and organizations representing the public to
- 13 address existing and potential barriers to minority success and
- 14 empowerment; and
- 15 3. Provide research driven policy proposals and actionable items when areas
- 16 of improvement are identified.
- 17 (6) A majority of the entire membership of the commission shall constitute a
- 18 quorum.
- 19 (7) The Legislative Research Commission shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the
- 20 employment of personnel necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.
- 21 (8) The commission shall publish and submit an annual report to the Legislative
- 22 Research Commission with recommendations on any potential legislative or
- 23 administrative actions with respect to their findings.