

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 Attorney General or his or her designee;*

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

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

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

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

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

27 *3. One (1) shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and*

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