

1 AN ACT relating to the Commission on Race and Access to Opportunity.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 7.200 is amended to read as follows:

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

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

12 (a) One (1) member appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of
13 the House of Representatives from a list of three (3) names provided by the
14 Prosecutors Advisory Council;

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 be
19 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 local
22 governments who have expertise in social policy related to education, health,
23 economic development, or the law and who shall be appointed for up to two
24 (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 (1)
- 3 co-chair of the commission from among that chamber's members appointed to the
- 4 commission.
- 5 (4) Any vacancy which may occur in the membership of the commission shall be filled
- 6 by the appointing authority who made the original appointment. Any appointee
- 7 selected to fill a vacancy under subsection (2)(d) of this section shall serve for the
- 8 remainder of the unexpired term.
- 9 (5) A member described in subsection (2)(d) of this section who fails to attend fifty
- 10 percent (50%) of commission meetings in a calendar year may be recommended
- 11 to the appointing authority for replacement with a new member.
- 12 (6) For any appointment or reappointment of members under this section, the
- 13 appointing authority shall forward a notice of appointment or reappointment to
- 14 the commission and the Legislative Research Commission.
- 15 ~~(7)~~~~(5)~~ The commission shall have the authority to:
- 16 (a) Hold monthly meetings during the interim meeting period of the General
- 17 Assembly;
- 18 (b) Seek comment, testimony, documents, records, or other information from
- 19 various government agencies and organizations representing the public to
- 20 address existing and potential barriers to minority success and empowerment;
- 21 and
- 22 (c) Provide research-driven policy proposals and actionable items when areas of
- 23 improvement are identified.
- 24 ~~(8)~~~~(6)~~ A majority of the entire membership of the commission shall constitute a
- 25 quorum.
- 26 ~~(9)~~~~(7)~~ The Legislative Research Commission shall have exclusive jurisdiction over
- 27 the employment of personnel necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

1 ~~(10)(8)~~ The commission shall publish and submit an annual report to the Legislative
2 Research Commission with recommendations on any potential legislative or
3 administrative actions with respect to their findings.