

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, health, economic opportunity, and*
10 *criminal justice in an effort to identify areas of improvement in providing services*
11 *and opportunities for minority communities.*

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

13 *(a) The executive director of the Kentucky Human Rights Commission or his or*
14 *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) member 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 who are not affiliated with state government who have*
22 *expertise in education, health, economic development, or the law and who*
23 *shall be appointed for up to two (2) consecutive, three (3) year terms by the*
24 *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 1. Hold monthly meetings during the interim meeting period of the General
9 Assembly;
- 10 2. Seek comment, testimony, documents, records, or other information from
11 various government agencies and organizations representing the public to
12 address existing barriers to minority success and empowerment; and
- 13 3. Provide research driven policy proposals and actionable items when areas
14 of improvement are identified.
- 15 (6) A majority of the entire membership of the commission shall constitute a
16 quorum.
- 17 (7) The Legislative Research Commission shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the
18 employment of personnel necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.
- 19 (8) The commission shall publish an annual report with recommendations on any
20 potential legislative or administrative actions with respect to their findings.