

# SECTION SUMMARY

## SB 234

- **Section 1** – The original provisions of SB 234 address protections for victims of sexual assaults and passed the Senate 38-0. These provisions are retained in the amended version of SB 234
- **Section 2** – Section 2 amends the definitions section of KRS 6.611 regarding legislative ethics to clarify the definition of “legislator” so that it also includes a former legislator with respect to conduct occurring at the time the person was a member of the General Assembly.
- **Section 3** – Section 3 amends the composition of the Legislative Ethics Commission to require a member be from a minority group and that both genders be represented on the Commission.

It also revises the mechanism for filling vacancies:

1. The President of the Senate and the House Speaker each has four appointments under existing law. If either fails to fill a vacancy within sixty days of the vacancy, the amendment requires the other presiding officer to fill that vacancy as if it were their own. That appointment must be made within thirty days of the initial vacancy.
2. If the LRC, acting to fill its joint appointment under existing law, fails to appoint within ninety days of the vacancy, the Ethics Commission itself will fill the vacancy, which it shall do by lot from among a list of names totaling six, three submitted by the President and three by the Speaker.

It also adds a new provision authorizing the Commission to remove a member that fails to attend one-half of all Commission meetings called during the calendar year.

- **Section 4** – Section 4 amends KRS 6.731, regarding conduct of legislators, to prohibit a legislator from using, or attempting to use, “his or her official position to subject another person to harassment or sexual harassment.” This provision also includes a definition for “harassment” for the purposes of KRS 6.731.
- **Section 5** – Section 5 is non-codified language requiring that minority and gender representation requirements for the Commission take effect beginning with the next Commission vacancy or term expiration.
- **Section 6** – Emergency Clause