

HB 3653- THE SAFE-T (Safety, Accountability, Fairness, and Equity- Today) ACT: MYTHS AND FACTS

MYTH: HB 3653 will endanger communities and embolden criminals.

FACT: HB 3653 moves Illinois from a system of pretrial detention that prioritizes wealth, to one that prioritizes public safety. As a result, individuals who are clear public safety risks can be detained regardless of their ability to post bond and individuals who aren't public safety risks won't be detained solely because of their inability to post bond. HB 3653 also improves access to substance use programs and treatments, modernizes sentencing laws and streamlines the victims' compensation system. It does not reduce sentences for individuals serving time for serious offenses.

MYTH: HB 3653 defunds the police.

FACT: HB 3653 requires more investments into officer training, mental health and officer wellness, and the use of body worn cameras.

MYTH: HB 3653 is overly punitive of police officers and makes it harder for officers to do their jobs.

FACT: HB 3653 expands training opportunities for officers, requires health and wellness services for officers, and protects officers from unjust lawsuits based on their reasonable actions. It sets statewide standards on use of force, crowd control, de-escalation and arrest techniques so officers have clarity. It also professionalizes policing through the creation of a more robust certification system and lays out clear standards and process for decertification.

MYTH: HB 3653 was rushed through with no opportunity for various stakeholders to address their concerns

FACT: HB 3653 was the culmination of 9 public hearings, 30 hours of testimony, and a number of meetings with law enforcement, community members, and advocates. HB 3653 also focuses on the needs of crime victims, many of whom support the bill and come from communities that experience the most violence.

