SUMMARY OF HB 3653: THE SAFE-T (Safety, Accountability, Fairness, and Equity- Today) ACT

Police Reform and Accountability

- Creates a more robust statewide certification and decertification system for police officers
- Requires the use of body worn cameras by all police departments
- Empowers the Attorney General to conduct pattern or practice investigations
- Updates use of force standards, creates duties to intervene and render aid, and requires training on racial sensitivity, use of force, de-escalation, mental health and crisis intervention
- Provides for mental health awareness and screenings for officer wellness
- Requires a predicate offense for a resisting arrest offense to be applicable
- Reforms crowd control and arrest techniques, including banning chokeholds
- Requires the permanent retention of police misconduct records
- Requires use of special prosecutor for officer-involved deaths
- Removes the sworn affidavit requirement for the filing of police misconduct complaints
- Prevents police departments from acquiring and using certain military surplus equipment
- Requires police to develop plans to protect vulnerable people present during search warrant raids

Criminal Justice Reform

- Expands first responder/co-responder deflection programs with funding prioritized for programs in communities impacted by the war on drugs, who have police/community relations issues and lack access to mental health and drug treatment
- Eliminates cash bail to ensure a fairer pre-trial detention system based on public safety and not on wealth
- Eliminates license suspensions for unpaid fines and fees due to red light camera and traffic offenses
- Modernizes sentencing laws by reforming the habitual criminal penalty enhancement and felony murder statute
- Limits short-term commitments for individuals with 4 months or less left on their sentence.
- Eliminates Mandatory Supervised Release for Class 3 and 4 felonies, unless the Prisoner Review Board determines it is needed after a risk and needs assessment. Shortens Mandatory Supervised Release terms for all other felony categories.
- Increases the Director of the Department of Corrections’ discretion to award sentence credit and expands awards of credit for completion of educational degrees and programming
- Provides services and programming for pregnant incarcerated individuals, and requires that medical treatment be provided to them without unreasonable delay
- Requires that 3 phone calls be provided within 3 hours of arrival at a police station and before questioning
- Increases transparency and accountability by requiring investigation and reporting of deaths in custody
- Ends the practice of prison gerrymandering by requiring that incarcerated individuals be counted as part of their home district and not the district of detention
- Expands services for crime victims and supports compensation of crime victims