

December 28, 2022

**ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL ISSUES STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO KANKAKEE COURT'S OPINION
ON SAFE-T ACT**

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today issued the following statement in response to Kankakee County Circuit Court Judge Thomas W. Cunnington's opinion that the pretrial release portions of the Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today (SAFE-T) Act violate Illinois' Constitution. The court's opinion does not disturb other portions of the SAFE-T Act that have been in effect for more than a year.

"Although the court's decision is binding in the 64 cases that were consolidated in Kankakee County, it is important to note that it is not binding in any other case, including those involving criminal defendants in any of the state's 102 counties. To definitively resolve this challenge to the pretrial release portions of the SAFE-T Act, Governor Pritzker, the legislative leaders named in the consolidated cases and I intend to appeal the circuit court's decision directly to the Illinois Supreme Court, where we will ask the court to reverse the circuit court's decision.

"Most of the SAFE-T Act's provisions have been in effect for more than a year, and regardless of today's circuit court decision, all parts of the SAFE-T Act, including the pretrial release portions addressed in the court's decision, will go into effect Jan 1. For instance, the right of individuals awaiting criminal trials — people who have not been convicted of a crime and are presumed innocent — to seek release from jail without having to pay cash bail will go into effect in a few short days, despite the court's ruling against those provisions. Illinois residents in all counties should be aware that the circuit court's decision has no effect on their ability to exercise their rights that are protected by the SAFE-T Act and the Illinois Constitution."