

By Senator Brandes

24-01357B-18

20181384\_\_

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the jurisdiction of the county  
3           court; amending s. 34.01, F.S.; increasing the limit  
4           of the amount in controversy in certain actions at law  
5           under which the county court has original jurisdiction  
6           of such actions; providing for adjustments to the  
7           limit at specified intervals due to inflation or  
8           deflation; providing an effective date.

9  
10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11  
12           Section 1. Section 34.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
13 read:

14           34.01 Jurisdiction of county court.—

15           (1) County courts shall have original jurisdiction:

16           (a) In all misdemeanor cases not cognizable by the circuit  
17 courts.~~†~~

18           (b) Of all violations of municipal and county ordinances.~~†~~

19           (c) Of all actions at law in which the matter in  
20 controversy does not exceed the sum of \$100,000 ~~\$15,000~~,  
21 exclusive of interest, costs, and attorney ~~attorney's~~ fees,  
22 except those within the exclusive jurisdiction of the circuit  
23 courts.~~†~~ and This limit must be adjusted every 10 years after  
24 July 1, 2018, to reflect the rate of inflation or deflation as  
25 indicated in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers,  
26 U.S. City Average, All Items, or successor reports as reported  
27 by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor  
28 Statistics or its successor.

29           (d) Of disputes occurring in the homeowners' associations

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30 as described in s. 720.311(2)(a), which shall be concurrent with  
31 jurisdiction of the circuit courts.

32 (2) The county courts shall have jurisdiction previously  
33 exercised by county judges' courts other than that vested in the  
34 circuit court by s. 26.012, except that county court judges may  
35 hear matters involving dissolution of marriage under the  
36 simplified dissolution procedure pursuant to the Florida Family  
37 Law Rules of Procedure or may issue a final order for  
38 dissolution in cases where the matter is uncontested, and the  
39 jurisdiction previously exercised by county courts, the claims  
40 court, small claims courts, small claims magistrates courts,  
41 magistrates courts, justice of the peace courts, municipal  
42 courts, and courts of chartered counties, including but not  
43 limited to the counties referred to in ss. 9, 10, 11, and 24,  
44 Art. VIII of the State Constitution of 1885, as preserved by s.  
45 (6)(e), Art. VIII of the State Constitution of 1968.

46 (3) Judges of county courts shall also be committing trial  
47 court judges. Judges of county courts shall be coroners unless  
48 otherwise provided by law or by rule of the Supreme Court.

49 (4) Judges of county courts may hear all matters in equity  
50 involved in any case within the jurisdictional amount of the  
51 county court, except as otherwise restricted by the State  
52 Constitution or the laws of Florida.

53 (5) A county court is a trial court.

54 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.