

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the jurisdiction of appellate
 3 courts; amending s. 26.012, F.S.; limiting the
 4 appellate jurisdiction of the circuit courts to
 5 appeals from final administrative orders of local code
 6 enforcement boards and other reviews and appeals
 7 expressly provided by law; amending s. 34.017, F.S.;
 8 authorizing a county court to certify a question to a
 9 district court of appeal in a final judgment that is
 10 appealable to a circuit court; amending s. 35.065,
 11 F.S.; authorizing a district court of appeal to review
 12 certain questions certified by a county court;
 13 repealing s. 924.08, F.S., relating to the
 14 jurisdiction of the circuit court to hear appeals from
 15 final judgments in misdemeanor cases; providing an
 16 effective date.

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 18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 20 Section 1. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 26.012,
 21 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

22 26.012 Jurisdiction of circuit court.—

23 (1) ~~Circuit courts shall have jurisdiction of appeals from~~
 24 ~~county courts except:~~

25 ~~(a) Appeals of county court orders or judgments where the~~

26 | ~~amount in controversy is greater than \$15,000. This paragraph is~~
 27 | ~~repealed on January 1, 2023.~~

28 | ~~(b) Appeals of county court orders or judgments declaring~~
 29 | ~~invalid a state statute or a provision of the State~~
 30 | ~~Constitution.~~

31 | ~~(c) Orders or judgments of a county court which are~~
 32 | ~~certified by the county court to the district court of appeal to~~
 33 | ~~be of great public importance and which are accepted by the~~
 34 | ~~district court of appeal for review. Circuit courts shall have~~
 35 | jurisdiction of appeals from final administrative orders of
 36 | local government code enforcement boards and of reviews and
 37 | appeals as otherwise expressly provided by law.

38 | (2) Circuit courts ~~They shall~~ have exclusive original
 39 | jurisdiction:

40 | (a) In all actions at law not cognizable by the county
 41 | courts;

42 | (b) Of proceedings relating to the settlement of the
 43 | estates of decedents and minors, the granting of letters
 44 | testamentary, guardianship, involuntary hospitalization, the
 45 | determination of incompetency, and other jurisdiction usually
 46 | pertaining to courts of probate;

47 | (c) In all cases in equity including all cases relating to
 48 | juveniles except traffic offenses as provided in chapters 316
 49 | and 985;

50 | (d) Of all felonies and of all misdemeanors arising out of

51 | the same circumstances as a felony which is also charged;
 52 | (e) In all cases involving legality of any tax assessment
 53 | or toll or denial of refund, except as provided in s. 72.011;
 54 | (f) In actions of ejectment; and
 55 | (g) In all actions involving the title and boundaries of
 56 | real property.

57 | Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 34.017, Florida
 58 | Statutes, is amended to read:

59 | 34.017 Certification of questions to district court of
 60 | appeal.—

61 | (1) A county court may ~~is permitted to~~ certify a question
 62 | to the district court of appeal in a final judgment that is
 63 | appealable to the circuit court if the question may have
 64 | statewide application, and:

- 65 | (a) Is of great public importance; or
- 66 | (b) Will affect the uniform administration of justice.

67 | Section 3. Section 35.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 68 | read:

69 | 35.065 Review of judgment or order certified by county
 70 | court to be of great public importance.—Pursuant to s. 34.017, a
 71 | district court of appeal may review any order or judgment of a
 72 | county court which is certified by the county court to be of
 73 | great public importance.

74 | Section 4. Section 924.08, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

75 | Section 5. This act shall take effect January 1, 2021.