By Senator Brandes

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A bill to be entitled An act relating to jurisdiction of courts; amending s. 26.012, F.S.; revising the jurisdiction of circuit courts; amending s. 26.57, F.S.; revising the authority of county court judges temporarily designated to preside over circuit court cases; amending s. 28.241, F.S.; removing authorization for filing fees for certain appellate proceedings; repealing s. 34.017, F.S., relating to certification of questions to district courts of appeal; amending s. 34.041, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; repealing s. 35.065, F.S., relating to the review of a judgment or an order certified by a county court to be of great public importance; amending s. 162.11, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction for appeals of final administrative orders of local government code enforcement boards from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 171.081, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction for petitions on annexation or contraction of local government boundaries from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 163.3215, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction for appeals on development orders from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 189.041, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of challenges of urban area maps adopted by special districts from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 190.046, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction

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of petitions seeking review of transfer plan

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ordinances adopted by a community development district from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 255.20, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of appeals regarding local bids and contracts for public construction works from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 318.16, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction for appeals of traffic infractions from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 318.33, F.S.; modifying provisions regarding the appeal of traffic infractions to conform to changes made by the act; amending s. 320.781, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of appeals of determinations of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles on certain claims against mobile home or recreational vehicle dealers or brokers from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 321.051, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of appeals of final orders of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles regarding the Florida Highway Patrol wrecker operator system from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 322.272, F.S.; modifying provisions regarding the filing of petitions for certiorari to conform to changes made by the act; amending s. 322.31, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of the review of Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles final orders and rulings from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 322.64, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made

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by the act; amending s. 327.73, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of appeals of a hearing official's finding regarding a noncriminal infraction regarding a vessel from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 333.11, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of judicial review of airport zoning regulations from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 336.41, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of appeals of competitive bidding determinations made by counties from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 337.14, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of appeals of competitive bidding determinations made by the Department of Transportation from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 337.404, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of judicial review of the removal or relocation of utility facilities from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 376.065, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of an appeal of a hearing official's findings of a violation of discharge prevention and response certification from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 376.07, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of an appeal of a hearing official's finding of inadequate booming by a terminal facility from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 376.071, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of an appeal of a hearing official's finding of a violation of requirements for

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a discharge contingency plan from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 376.16, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of an appeal of a hearing official's finding of a violation of the Pollutant Discharge Prevention and Control Act from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 379.401, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of appeals of Level One violations from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 379.4015, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; amending s. 379.412, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of appeals of violations of certain prohibitions regarding feeding wildlife and freshwater fish from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 408.40, F.S.; providing for the review of the Public Counsel's petition of the Agency for Health Care Administration by appellate courts; amending s. 489.127, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of appeals of final administrative orders of an enforcement board or licensing board regulating contracting or a designated special magistrate from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 489.531, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of appeals of final administrative orders of an enforcement board or licensing board regulating electrical or alarm system contracting or a designated special magistrate from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 556.107, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of appeals of noncriminal

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infractions under the Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; amending s. 569.005, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of appeals of findings of infractions of operating without a retail tobacco products dealer permit from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 605.0716, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of judicial review of denial of reinstatement of a limited liability company from the Circuit Court of Leon County to the First District Court of Appeal; amending s. 605.09091, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of judicial review of denial of reinstatement of a foreign limited liability company from the Circuit Court of Leon County to the First District Court of Appeal; amending s. 607.0126, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of appeals of the Department of State's refusal to file a corporate document from the Circuit Court of Leon County to the First District Court of Appeal; amending s. 607.1423, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of judicial review of denial of reinstatement of a corporation from the Circuit Court of Leon County to the First District Court of Appeal; amending s. 607.1532, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of judicial review of denial of reinstatement of a foreign corporation from the Circuit Court of Leon County to the First District Court of Appeal; amending s. 620.1811, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of appeals from the denial

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of reinstatement of a limited partnership from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 717.1242, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference to changes made by the act; amending s. 723.0612, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of review of certain actions of the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; amending s. 767.12, F.S.; transferring jurisdiction of appeals of dangerous dog classifications and penalties from the circuit court to the district court of appeal; repealing s. 924.08, F.S., relating to courts of appeal; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 26.012, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

26.012 Jurisdiction of circuit court.

- (1) Circuit courts shall have <del>jurisdiction of appeals from county courts except:</del>
- (a) Appeals of county court orders or judgments where the amount in controversy is greater than \$15,000. This paragraph is repealed on January 1, 2023.
- (b) Appeals of county court orders or judgments declaring invalid a state statute or a provision of the State Constitution.
- (c) Orders or judgments of a county court which are certified by the county court to the district court of appeal to

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be of great public importance and which are accepted by the district court of appeal for review.

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Circuit courts shall have jurisdiction of appeals from final administrative orders of local government code enforcement boards.

- (2) They shall have exclusive original jurisdiction:
- (a) In all actions at law not cognizable by the county courts;
- (b) Of proceedings relating to the settlement of the estates of decedents and minors, the granting of letters testamentary, guardianship, involuntary hospitalization, the determination of incompetency, and other jurisdiction usually pertaining to courts of probate;
- (c) In all cases in equity including all cases relating to juveniles except traffic offenses as provided in chapters 316 and 985;
- (d) Of all felonies and of all misdemeanors arising out of the same circumstances as a felony which is also charged;
- (e) In all cases involving legality of any tax assessment or toll or denial of refund, except as provided in s. 72.011;
  - (f) In actions of ejectment; and
- (g) In all actions involving the title and boundaries of real property.
  - (2) (3) The circuit court may issue injunctions.
- (3)(4) The chief judge of a circuit may authorize a county court judge to order emergency hospitalizations pursuant to part I of chapter 394 in the absence from the county of the circuit judge; and the county court judge shall have the power to issue

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all temporary orders and temporary injunctions necessary or proper to the complete exercise of such jurisdiction.

(4)  $\overline{(5)}$  A circuit court is a trial court.

Section 2. Section 26.57, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

26.57 Temporary designation of county court judge to preside over circuit court cases.—A county court judge may be designated on a temporary basis to preside over circuit court cases by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court upon recommendation of the chief judge of the circuit. He or she may be assigned to exercise all county and circuit court jurisdiction in the county, except appeals from the county court. In addition, he or she may be required to perform the duties of circuit judge in other counties of the circuit as time may permit and as the need arises, as determined by the chief judge of the circuit. A county court judge designated to preside over circuit court cases shall receive the same salary as a circuit court judge, to the extent that funds are specifically appropriated by law for such purposes.

Section 3. Present subsections (2) and (3) of section 28.241, Florida Statutes, are amended, and present subsections

- (4) through (7) of that section are renumbered as subsections
- (3) through (6), respectively, to read:
  - 28.241 Filing fees for trial and appellate proceedings.-
- (2) Upon the institution of any appellate proceeding from any lower court to the circuit court of any such county, including appeals filed by a county or municipality as provided in s. 34.041(5), or from the county or circuit court to an appellate court of the state, the clerk shall charge and collect

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from the party or parties instituting such appellate proceedings a filing fee not to exceed \$280, from which the clerk shall remit \$20 to the Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, for filing a notice of appeal from the county court to the circuit court and, in addition to the filing fee required under s. 25.241 or s. 35.22, \$100 for filing a notice of appeal from the county or circuit court to the district court of appeal or to the Supreme Court. If the party is determined to be indigent, the clerk shall defer payment of the fee otherwise required by this subsection.

 $\overline{(3)}$  A filing fee may not be imposed upon a party for responding by pleading, motion, or other paper to a civil or criminal action, suit,  $\underline{\text{or}}$  proceeding,  $\underline{\text{or}}$  appear in a circuit court.

Section 4. Section 34.017, Florida Statutes, is repealed.
Section 5. Present subsections (5) and (6) of section
34.041, Florida Statutes, are amended, and present subsections
(7) and (8) are renumbered as subsections (6) and (7),
respectively, to read:

34.041 Filing fees.-

(5) Upon the institution of any appellate proceeding from the county court to the circuit court, including any appeal filed by a county or municipality, the clerk shall charge and collect filing fees as provided in s. 28.241(2) from the party or parties instituting the appellate proceedings. If the party is determined to be indigent, the clerk shall defer payment of the fee.

(6) A charge or a fee may not be imposed upon a party for responding by pleading, motion, or other paper to a civil or

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criminal action, suit, or proceeding in a county court or to an appeal to the circuit court.

Section 6. <u>Section 35.065</u>, <u>Florida Statutes</u>, <u>is repealed</u>. Section 7. Section 162.11, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

162.11 Appeals.—An aggrieved party, including the local governing body, may appeal a final administrative order of an enforcement board to the <u>district circuit</u> court <u>of appeal</u>. The Such an appeal <u>may shall</u> not be a hearing de novo but <u>must shall</u> be limited to appellate review of the record created before the enforcement board. An appeal <u>must shall</u> be filed within 30 days after of the execution of the order to be appealed.

Section 8. Section 171.081, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

171.081 Appeal on annexation or contraction.

(1) Any party affected who believes that he or she will suffer material injury by reason of the failure of the municipal governing body to comply with the procedures set forth in this chapter for annexation or contraction or to meet the requirements established for annexation or contraction as they apply to his or her property may file a petition in the <u>district circuit</u> court of appeal for the <u>appellate district county</u> in which the municipality or municipalities are located seeking review by certiorari. The action may be initiated at the party's option within 30 days following the passage of the annexation or contraction ordinance or within 30 days following the completion of the dispute resolution process in subsection (2). In any action instituted pursuant to this subsection, the complainant, should he or she prevail, shall be entitled to reasonable costs

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and attorney attorney's fees.

(2) If the affected party is a governmental entity, no later than 30 days following the passage of an annexation or contraction ordinance, the governmental entity must initiate and proceed through the conflict resolution procedures established in chapter 164. If there is a failure to resolve the conflict, no later than 30 days following the conclusion of the procedures established in chapter 164, the governmental entity that initiated the conflict resolution procedures may file a petition in the <u>district circuit</u> court <u>of appeal</u> for the <u>appellate district county</u> in which the municipality or municipalities are located seeking review by certiorari. In any legal action instituted pursuant to this subsection, the prevailing party is entitled to reasonable costs and <u>attorney attorney's</u> fees.

Section 9. Subsection (4) of section 163.3215, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 163.3215 Standing to enforce local comprehensive plans through development orders.—
- (4) If a local government elects to adopt or has adopted an ordinance establishing, at a minimum, the requirements listed in this subsection, the sole method by which an aggrieved and adversely affected party may challenge any decision of local government granting or denying an application for a development order, as defined in s. 163.3164, which materially alters the use or density or intensity of use on a particular piece of property, on the basis that it is not consistent with the comprehensive plan adopted under this part, is by an appeal filed by a petition for writ of certiorari filed in the district eircuit court of appeal within no later than 30 days after

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following rendition of a development order or other written decision of the local government, or when all local administrative appeals, if any, are exhausted, whichever occurs later. An action for injunctive or other relief may be joined with the petition for certiorari. Principles of judicial or administrative res judicata and collateral estoppel apply to these proceedings. Minimum components of the local process are as follows:

(a) The local process must make provision for notice of an application for a development order that materially alters the use or density or intensity of use on a particular piece of property, including notice by publication or mailed notice consistent with the provisions of ss. 125.66(4)(b)2. and 3. and 166.041(3)(c)2.b. and c., and must require prominent posting at the job site. The notice must be given within 10 days after the filing of an application for a development order; however, notice under this subsection is not required for an application for a building permit or any other official action of local government which does not materially alter the use or density or intensity of use on a particular piece of property. The notice must clearly delineate that an aggrieved or adversely affected person has the right to request a quasi-judicial hearing before the local government for which the application is made, must explain the conditions precedent to the appeal of any development order ultimately rendered upon the application, and must specify the location where written procedures can be obtained that describe the process, including how to initiate the quasi-judicial process, the timeframes for initiating the process, and the location of the hearing. The process may

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include an opportunity for an alternative dispute resolution.

- (b) The local process must provide a clear point of entry consisting of a written preliminary decision, at a time and in a manner to be established in the local ordinance, with the time to request a quasi-judicial hearing running from the issuance of the written preliminary decision; the local government, however, is not bound by the preliminary decision. A party may request a hearing to challenge or support a preliminary decision.
- (c) The local process must provide an opportunity for participation in the process by an aggrieved or adversely affected party, allowing a reasonable time for the party to prepare and present a case for the quasi-judicial hearing.
- (d) The local process must provide, at a minimum, an opportunity for the disclosure of witnesses and exhibits prior to hearing and an opportunity for the depositions of witnesses to be taken.
- (e) The local process may not require that a party be represented by an attorney in order to participate in a hearing.
- (f) The local process must provide for a quasi-judicial hearing before an impartial special master who is an attorney who has at least 5 years' experience and who shall, at the conclusion of the hearing, recommend written findings of fact and conclusions of law. The special master shall have the power to swear witnesses and take their testimony under oath, to issue subpoenas and other orders regarding the conduct of the proceedings, and to compel entry upon the land. The standard of review applied by the special master in determining whether a proposed development order is consistent with the comprehensive plan shall be strict scrutiny in accordance with Florida law.

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(g) At the quasi-judicial hearing, all parties must have the opportunity to respond, to present evidence and argument on all issues involved which are related to the development order, and to conduct cross-examination and submit rebuttal evidence. Public testimony must be allowed.

- (h) The local process must provide for a duly noticed public hearing before the local government at which public testimony is allowed. At the quasi-judicial hearing, the local government is bound by the special master's findings of fact unless the findings of fact are not supported by competent substantial evidence. The governing body may modify the conclusions of law if it finds that the special master's application or interpretation of law is erroneous. The governing body may make reasonable legal interpretations of its comprehensive plan and land development regulations without regard to whether the special master's interpretation is labeled as a finding of fact or a conclusion of law. The local government's final decision must be reduced to writing, including the findings of fact and conclusions of law, and is not considered rendered or final until officially date-stamped by the city or county clerk.
- (i) An ex parte communication relating to the merits of the matter under review may not be made to the special master. An ex parte communication relating to the merits of the matter under review may not be made to the governing body after a time to be established by the local ordinance, which time must be no later than receipt of the special master's recommended order by the governing body.
  - (j) At the option of the local government, the process may

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require actions to challenge the consistency of a development order with land development regulations to be brought in the same proceeding.

Section 10. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 189.041, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

189.041 Elections; special requirements and procedures for districts with governing bodies elected on a one-acre/one-vote basis.—

- (2) POPULAR ELECTIONS; REFERENDUM; DESIGNATION OF URBAN AREAS.—
  - (b) Designation of urban areas.-
- 1. Within 30 days after approval of the election process described in this subsection by qualified electors of the district, the governing body shall direct the district staff to prepare and present maps of the district describing the extent and location of all urban areas within the district. Such determination shall be based upon the criteria contained within paragraph (1)(b).
- 2. Within 60 days after approval of the election process described in this subsection by qualified electors of the district, the maps describing urban areas within the district shall be presented to the governing body.
- 3. Any district landowner or elector may contest the accuracy of the urban area maps prepared by the district staff within 30 days after submission to the governing body. Upon notice of objection to the maps, the governing body shall request the county engineer to prepare and present maps of the district describing the extent and location of all urban areas within the district. Such determination shall be based upon the

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criteria contained within paragraph (1)(b). Within 30 days after the governing body request, the county engineer shall present the maps to the governing body.

- 4. Upon presentation of the maps by the county engineer, the governing body shall compare the maps submitted by both the district staff and the county engineer and make a determination as to which set of maps to adopt. Within 60 days after presentation of all such maps, the governing body may amend and shall adopt the official maps at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing body.
- 5. Any district landowner or qualified elector may contest the accuracy of the urban area maps adopted by the governing body within 30 days after adoption by petition to the <u>district</u> circuit court of appeal with jurisdiction over the district.

  Accuracy shall be determined pursuant to paragraph (1)(b). Any petitions so filed shall be heard expeditiously, and the maps shall either be approved or approved with necessary amendments to render the maps accurate and shall be certified to the governing body.
- 6. Upon adoption by the governing body or certification by the court, the district urban area maps shall serve as the official maps for determination of the extent of urban area within the district and the number of governing body members to be elected by qualified electors and by the one-acre/one-vote principle at the next regularly scheduled election of governing body members.
- 7. Upon a determination of the percentage of urban area within the district as compared with total area within the district, the governing body shall order elections in accordance

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with the percentages pursuant to paragraph (3)(a). The landowners' meeting date shall be designated by the governing body.

8. The maps shall be updated and readopted every 5 years or sooner in the discretion of the governing body.

Section 11. Subsection (6) of section 190.046, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

190.046 Termination, contraction, or expansion of district.—

(6) No later than 30 days following the adoption of a transfer plan ordinance, the board of supervisors may file, in the appropriate district circuit court of appeal for the county in which the local general-purpose government that adopted the ordinance is located, a petition seeking review by certiorari of the factual and legal basis for the adoption of the transfer plan ordinance.

Section 12. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of section 255.20, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

255.20 Local bids and contracts for public construction works; specification of state-produced lumber.—

(1) A county, municipality, special district as defined in chapter 189, or other political subdivision of the state seeking to construct or improve a public building, structure, or other public construction works must competitively award to an appropriately licensed contractor each project that is estimated in accordance with generally accepted cost-accounting principles to cost more than \$300,000. For electrical work, the local government must competitively award to an appropriately licensed contractor each project that is estimated in accordance with

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generally accepted cost-accounting principles to cost more than \$75,000. As used in this section, the term "competitively award" means to award contracts based on the submission of sealed bids, proposals submitted in response to a request for proposal, proposals submitted in response to a request for qualifications, or proposals submitted for competitive negotiation. This subsection expressly allows contracts for construction management services, design/build contracts, continuation contracts based on unit prices, and any other contract arrangement with a private sector contractor permitted by any applicable municipal or county ordinance, by district resolution, or by state law. For purposes of this section, cost includes the cost of all labor, except inmate labor, and the cost of equipment and materials to be used in the construction of the project. Subject to the provisions of subsection (3), the county, municipality, special district, or other political subdivision may establish, by municipal or county ordinance or special district resolution, procedures for conducting the bidding process.

(a) Notwithstanding any other law, a governmental entity seeking to construct or improve bridges, roads, streets, highways, or railroads, and services incidental thereto, at a cost in excess of \$250,000 may require that persons interested in performing work under contract first be certified or qualified to perform such work. A contractor may be considered ineligible to bid if the contractor is behind by 10 percent or more on completing an approved progress schedule for the governmental entity at the time of advertising the work. A prequalified contractor considered eligible by the Department of

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Transportation to bid to perform the type of work described under the contract is presumed to be qualified to perform the work described. The governmental entity may provide an appeal process to overcome that presumption with de novo review based on the record below to the district circuit court of appeal.

(b) For contractors who are not prequalified by the Department of Transportation, the governmental entity shall publish prequalification criteria and procedures prior to advertisement or notice of solicitation. Such publications must include notice of a public hearing for comment on such criteria and procedures prior to adoption. The procedures must provide for an appeal process within the authority for making objections to the prequalification process with de novo review based on the record below to the <u>district circuit</u> court <u>of appeal</u> within 30 days.

Section 13. Section 318.16, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

318.16 Appeals; stay orders; procedures.-

- (1) If a person is found to have committed an infraction by the hearing official, he or she may appeal that finding to the district circuit court of appeal. An appeal under this subsection does shall not operate to stay the reporting requirements of s. 318.14(7) or to stay appropriate action by the department upon receipt of that report.
- (2) The <u>district</u> court <u>of appeal</u>, upon application by the appellant, may:
- (a) Order a stay of any action by the department during pendency of the appeal, but not to exceed a period of 60 days. A copy of the order shall be forwarded to the department.

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(b) Deny the application.

Section 14. Section 318.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

appeals.—Decisions of the hearing officer are appealable to the district court of appeal in the manner prescribed by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, under the rules of court, to the circuit court. Appeals must shall be based upon the record of the hearing before the hearing officer and may shall not be hearings de novo. Appellants are responsible for producing the record of the hearing beyond that which normally results from the civil traffic infraction hearing process.

Section 15. Subsection (7) of section 320.781, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.781 Mobile Home and Recreational Vehicle Protection Trust Fund.—

(7) Within 90 days after receipt of the application and verified claim, the department shall issue its determination on the claim. The Such determination is shall not be subject to the provisions of chapter 120, but is shall be reviewable only by writ of certiorari in the district court of appeal circuit court in the county in which the claimant resides in the manner and within the time provided by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. The claim must be paid within 45 days after the determination, or, if judicial review is sought, within 45 days after the review becomes final. A person may not be paid an amount from the fund in excess of \$25,000 per mobile home or recreational vehicle, which includes any damages, restitution, payments received as the result of a claim against the surety

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bond, or expenses, including reasonable <u>attorney</u> attorney's fees. Prior to payment, the person must execute an assignment to the department of all the person's rights and title to, and interest in, the unsatisfied judgment and judgment lien or the claim against the dealer or broker and its surety.

Section 16. Subsection (2) of section 321.051, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

321.051 Florida Highway Patrol wrecker operator system; penalties for operation outside of system.—

(2) The Division of Florida Highway Patrol of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles may is authorized to establish within areas designated by the patrol a wrecker operator system using qualified, reputable wrecker operators for removal and storage of wrecked or disabled vehicles from a crash scene or for removal and storage of abandoned vehicles, if in the event the owner or operator is incapacitated or unavailable or leaves the procurement of wrecker service to the officer at the scene. All reputable wrecker operators are shall be eligible to participate for use in the system provided their equipment and drivers meet recognized safety qualifications and mechanical standards set by rules of the Division of Florida Highway Patrol for the size of vehicle it is designed to handle. The division may is authorized to limit the number of wrecker operators participating in the wrecker operator system, which authority shall not affect wrecker operators currently participating in the system established by this section. The division may is authorized to establish maximum rates for the towing and storage of vehicles removed at the division's request, where the such rates have not

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been set by a county or municipality pursuant to s. 125.0103 or s. 166.043. The Such rates are shall not be considered rules for the purpose of chapter 120; however, the department shall establish by rule a procedure for setting the such rates. Any provision in chapter 120 to the contrary notwithstanding, a final order of the department denying, suspending, or revoking a wrecker operator's participation in the system is shall be reviewable in the manner and within the time provided by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure only by a writ of certiorari issued by the district circuit court of appeal in the county wherein such wrecker operator resides.

Section 17. Section 322.272, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

322.272 Supersedeas.—The filing of a petition for certiorari to the <u>district</u> <u>circuit</u> court <u>of appeal</u> does not itself stay the enforcement of the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of license. The department may order a stay of enforcement upon appropriate terms and conditions.

Section 18. Section 322.31, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

322.31 Right of review.—The final orders and rulings of the department by which wherein any person is denied a license, or by which where such license has been canceled, suspended, or revoked, are shall be reviewable in the manner and within the time provided by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure only by a writ of certiorari issued by the district circuit court of appeal in the county wherein such person shall reside, in the manner prescribed by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, any provision in chapter 120 to the contrary notwithstanding.

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Section 19. Subsection (13) of section 322.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 322.64 Holder of commercial driver license; persons operating a commercial motor vehicle; driving with unlawful blood-alcohol level; refusal to submit to breath, urine, or blood test.—
- (13) A person may appeal any decision of the department sustaining the disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle by a petition for writ of certiorari to the district circuit court of appeal for the appellate district for in the county in which the wherein such person resides or in which wherein a formal or informal review was conducted pursuant to s. 322.31. However, an appeal does shall not stay the disqualification. This subsection does shall not be construed to provide for a de novo review.

Section 20. Subsection (7) of section 327.73, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

327.73 Noncriminal infractions.-

(7) If a person is found by the hearing official to have committed an infraction, he or she may appeal that finding to the district circuit court of appeal.

Section 21. Subsection (1) of section 333.11, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

333.11 Judicial review.-

(1) Any person, political subdivision, or joint airport zoning board affected by a decision of a political subdivision or its administrative agency may apply for judicial relief to the <u>district circuit</u> court <u>of appeal for the appellate district in which in the judicial circuit where</u> the political subdivision

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is located within 30 days after rendition of the decision. Review shall be by petition for writ of certiorari, which shall be governed by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Section 22. Subsection (5) of section 336.41, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

336.41 Counties; employing labor and providing road equipment; accounting; when competitive bidding required.—

- (5) (a) For contracts in excess of \$250,000, any county may require that persons interested in performing work under the contract first be certified or qualified to do the work. Any contractor prequalified and considered eligible to bid by the department to perform the type of work described under the contract shall be presumed to be qualified to perform the work so described. Any contractor may be considered ineligible to bid by the county if the contractor is behind an approved progress schedule by 10 percent or more on another project for that county at the time of the advertisement of the work. The county may provide an appeal process to overcome such consideration with de novo review based on the record below to the <u>district</u> circuit court of appeal.
- (b) The county shall publish prequalification criteria and procedures prior to advertisement or notice of solicitation. The Such publications must shall include notice of a public hearing for comment on the such criteria and procedures prior to adoption. The procedures must shall provide for an appeal process within the county for objections to the prequalification process with de novo review based on the record below to the district circuit court of appeal.
  - (c) The county shall also publish for comment, prior to

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adoption, the selection criteria and procedures to be used by the county if the such procedures would allow selection of other than the lowest responsible bidder. The selection criteria must shall include an appeal process within the county with de novo review based on the record below to the district circuit court of appeal.

Section 23. Subsection (9) of section 337.14, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 337.14 Application for qualification; certificate of qualification; restrictions; request for hearing.—
- (9) (a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, for contracts in excess of \$250,000, an authority created pursuant to chapter 348 or chapter 349 may require that persons interested in performing work under contract first be certified or qualified to do the work. Any contractor may be considered ineligible to bid by the governmental entity or authority if the contractor is behind an approved progress schedule for the governmental entity or authority by 10 percent or more at the time of advertisement of the work. Any contractor prequalified and considered eligible by the department to bid to perform the type of work described under the contract shall be presumed to be qualified to perform the work so described. The governmental entity or authority may provide an appeal process to overcome that presumption with de novo review based on the record below to the district circuit court of appeal.
- (b) With respect to contractors not prequalified with the department, the authority shall publish prequalification criteria and procedures prior to advertisement or notice of solicitation. The <u>Such</u> publications must <u>shall</u> include notice of

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a public hearing for comment on the such criteria and procedures prior to adoption. The procedures <u>must</u> shall provide for an appeal process within the authority for objections to the prequalification process with de novo review based on the record below to the district circuit court of appeal within 30 days.

(c) An authority may establish criteria and procedures under which contractor selection may occur on a basis other than the lowest responsible bidder. Prior to adoption, the authority shall publish for comment the proposed criteria and procedures. Review of the adopted criteria and procedures shall be to the <a href="district circuit">district circuit</a> court of appeal, within 30 days after adoption, with de novo review based on the record below.

Section 24. Subsection (3) of section 337.404, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

337.404 Removal or relocation of utility facilities; notice and order; court review.—

(3) The owner may obtain judicial review of the final order of the authority within the time and in the manner provided by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure by filing in the district circuit court of appeal for the appellate district the county in which the utility was relocated a petition for a writ of certiorari in the manner prescribed by the appellate said rules or in the manner provided by chapter 120 if when the respondent is an agency for purposes of chapter 120.

Section 25. Paragraph (g) of subsection (5) of section 376.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

376.065 Operation of terminal facility without discharge prevention and response certificate prohibited; penalty.—
(5)

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(g) A person who is found by the hearing official to have committed an infraction may appeal that finding to the <u>district</u> circuit court of appeal.

Section 26. Paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of section 376.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

376.07 Regulatory powers of department; penalties for inadequate booming by terminal facilities.—

- (3) The department shall not require vessels to maintain discharge prevention gear, holding tanks, and containment gear which exceed federal requirements. However, a terminal facility transferring heavy oil to or from a vessel with a heavy oil storage capacity greater than 10,000 gallons shall be required, considering existing weather and tidal conditions, to adequately boom or seal off the transfer area during a transfer, including, but not limited to, a bunkering operation, to minimize the escape of such pollutants from the containment area. As used in this subsection, the term "adequate booming" means booming with proper containment equipment which is employed and located for the purpose of preventing, for the most likely discharge, as much of the pollutant as possible from escaping out of the containment area.
- (f) A person who is found by the hearing official to have committed an infraction may appeal that finding to the <u>district</u> court of appeal.

Section 27. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section 376.071, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

376.071 Discharge contingency plan for vessels.-

(2)

(g) A person who is found by the hearing official to have

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committed an infraction may appeal that finding to the <u>district</u> curt of appeal.

Section 28. Subsection (10) of section 376.16, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

376.16 Enforcement and penalties.-

(10) A person who is found by a hearing official to have committed an infraction may appeal that finding to the <u>district</u> current court of appeal.

Section 29. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section 379.401, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.401 Penalties and violations; civil penalties for noncriminal infractions; criminal penalties; suspension and forfeiture of licenses and permits.—

- (1) LEVEL ONE VIOLATIONS.-
- (h) A person who elects to appear before the county court or who is required to appear before the county court shall be deemed to have waived the limitations on civil penalties provided under paragraphs (c) and (d). After a hearing, the county court shall determine if a Level One violation has been committed, and if so, may impose a civil penalty of not less than \$50 for a first-time violation, and not more than \$500 for subsequent violations. A person found guilty of committing a Level One violation may appeal that finding to the district circuit court of appeal. The commission of a violation must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

Section 30. Paragraph (j) of subsection (1) of section 379.4015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 379.4015 Nonnative and captive wildlife penalties.-
- (1) LEVEL ONE.—Unless otherwise provided by law, the

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following classifications and penalties apply:

(j) If a person is found by the hearing official to have committed an infraction, she or he may appeal that finding to the district court of appeal.

Section 31. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 379.412, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.412 Penalties for feeding wildlife and freshwater fish.—

- (2) A person who violates a prohibition or restriction identified in subsection (1):
- (a) For a first violation, commits a noncriminal infraction, punishable by a civil penalty of \$100.
- 1. A person cited for a violation under this paragraph shall sign and accept a citation to appear before the county court. The issuing officer may indicate on the citation the time and location of the scheduled hearing and shall indicate the applicable civil penalty.
- 2. A person cited for a violation may pay the civil penalty by mail or in person within 30 days after receipt of the citation. If the civil penalty is paid, the person is deemed to have admitted committing the violation and to have waived his or her right to a hearing before the county court. The Such admission may not be used as evidence in any other proceedings except to determine the appropriate fine for any subsequent violations.
- 3. A person who refuses to accept a citation, who fails to pay the civil penalty for a violation, or who fails to appear before a county court as required commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.

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775.083.

4. A person who elects to appear before the county court or who is required to appear before the county court is deemed to have waived the limitations on civil penalties provided under this paragraph. After a hearing, the county court shall determine if a violation has been committed, and if so, may impose a civil penalty of not less than \$100. A person found guilty of committing a violation may appeal that finding to the district circuit court of appeal. The commission of a violation must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

Section 32. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 408.40, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

408.40 Public Counsel.-

- (2) The Public Counsel shall:
- (a) Recommend to the agency, by petition, the commencement of any proceeding or action or to appear, in the name of the state or its citizens, in any proceeding or action before the agency and urge therein any position that he or she deems to be in the public interest, whether consistent or inconsistent with positions previously adopted by the agency, and use therein all forms of discovery available to attorneys in civil actions generally, subject to protective orders of the agency, which are shall be reviewable by summary procedure in the appellate circuit courts of this state.

Section 33. Paragraph (j) of subsection (5) of section 489.127, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

489.127 Prohibitions; penalties.-

(5) Each county or municipality may, at its option, designate one or more of its code enforcement officers, as

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defined in chapter 162, to enforce, as set out in this subsection, the provisions of subsection (1) and s. 489.132(1) against persons who engage in activity for which a county or municipal certificate of competency or license or state certification or registration is required.

(j) An aggrieved party, including the local governing body, may appeal a final administrative order of an enforcement board or licensing board or designated special magistrate to the district circuit court of appeal. The Such an appeal may shall not be a hearing de novo but must shall be limited to appellate review of the record created before the enforcement board or licensing board or designated special magistrate. An appeal must shall be filed within 30 days after of the execution of the order to be appealed.

Section 34. Paragraph (j) of subsection (4) of section 489.531, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

489.531 Prohibitions; penalties.-

- (4) Each county or municipality may, at its option, designate one or more of its code enforcement officers, as defined in chapter 162, to enforce, as set out in this subsection, the provisions of subsection (1) against persons who engage in activity for which county or municipal certification is required.
- (j) An aggrieved party, including the local governing body, may appeal a final administrative order of an enforcement or licensing board or designated special magistrate to the <u>district circuit</u> court <u>of appeal</u>. The <u>Such an</u> appeal <u>may shall</u> not be a hearing de novo but <u>must shall</u> be limited to appellate review of the record created before the enforcement or licensing board or

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designated special magistrate. An appeal  $\underline{\text{must}}$   $\underline{\text{shall}}$  be filed within 30 days of the execution of the order to be appealed.

Section 35. Paragraphs (h) and (i) of subsection (1) of section 556.107, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

556.107 Violations.-

- (1) NONCRIMINAL INFRACTIONS.—
- (h) If a person is found by a judge or hearing official to have committed an infraction, the person may appeal that finding to the district court of appeal.
- (i) Sunshine State One-Call of Florida, Inc., may, at its own cost, retain an attorney to assist in the presentation of relevant facts and law in the county court proceeding pertaining to the citation issued under this section. The corporation may also appear in any case appealed to the <u>district circuit</u> court <u>of appeal</u> if a county court judge finds that an infraction of the chapter was committed. An appellant <u>in the circuit court proceeding</u> shall timely notify the corporation of any appeal under this section.

Section 36. Subsection (6) of section 569.005, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

569.005 Operating without a retail tobacco products dealer permit; penalty.—

(6) If a person is found by the court to have committed the infraction, that person may appeal that finding to the <u>district</u> <u>circuit</u> court <u>of appeal</u>.

Section 37. Section 605.0716, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 605.0716 Judicial review of denial of reinstatement.-
- (1) If the department denies a limited liability company's

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application for reinstatement after administrative dissolution, the department shall serve the company with a notice in a record that explains the reason or reasons for the denial.

- (2) Within 30 days after service of a notice of denial of reinstatement, a limited liability company may appeal the denial to the First District Court of Appeal by petitioning the court Circuit Court of Leon County to set aside the dissolution. The petition must be served on the department and contain a copy of the department's notice of administrative dissolution, the company's application for reinstatement, and the department's notice of denial.
- (3) The circuit court may order the department to reinstate a dissolved limited liability company or take other action the court considers appropriate.
- (4) The circuit court's final decision may be appealed as in other civil proceedings.

Section 38. Section 605.09091, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

605.09091 Judicial review of denial of reinstatement.-

- (1) If the department denies a foreign limited liability company's application for reinstatement after revocation of its certificate of authority, the department shall serve the foreign limited liability company, pursuant to s. 605.0117(7), with a written notice that explains the reason or reasons for the denial.
- (2) Within 30 days after service of a notice of denial of reinstatement, a foreign limited liability company may appeal the denial to the First District Court of Appeal by petitioning the court Circuit Court of Leon County to set aside the

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revocation. The petition must be served on the department and must contain a copy of the department's notice of revocation, the foreign limited liability company's application for reinstatement, and the department's notice of denial.

- (3) The circuit court may order the department to reinstate the certificate of authority of the foreign limited liability company or take other action the court considers appropriate.
- (4) The circuit court's final decision may be appealed as in other civil proceedings.

Section 39. Section 607.0126, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

document.—If the department refuses to file a document delivered to its office for filing, the person who submitted the document for filing may petition the <a href="First District Court of Appeal">First District Court of Appeal</a>
Circuit Court of Leon County to compel filing of the document.

The document and the explanation from the department of the refusal to file must be attached to the petition. The court may decide the matter in a summary proceeding, and the court may summarily order the department to file the document or take other action the court considers appropriate. The court's final decision may be appealed as in other civil proceedings.

Section 40. Subsection (2) of section 607.1423, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 607.1423 Judicial review of denial of reinstatement.
- (2) Within 30 days after service of a notice of denial of reinstatement, a corporation may appeal the denial by petitioning the <u>First District Court of Appeal Circuit Court of Leon County</u> to set aside the dissolution. The petition must be

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served on the department and contain a copy of the department's notice of administrative dissolution, the corporation's application for reinstatement, and the department's notice of denial.

Section 41. Section 607.1532, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

607.1532 Judicial review of denial of reinstatement.-

- (1) If the department denies a foreign corporation's application for reinstatement after revocation of its certificate of authority, the department shall serve the foreign corporation under s. 607.15101 with a written notice that explains the reason or reasons for the denial.
- (2) Within 30 days after service of a notice of denial of reinstatement, a foreign corporation may appeal the denial by petitioning the <u>First District Court of Appeal</u> Circuit Court of Leon County to set aside the revocation. The petition must be served on the department and contain a copy of the department's notice of revocation, the foreign corporation's application for reinstatement, and the department's notice of denial.
- (3) The circuit court may order the department to reinstate the certificate of authority of the foreign corporation or take other action the court considers appropriate.
- (4) The circuit court's final decision may be appealed as in other civil proceedings.
- Section 42. Subsection (2) of section 620.1811, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
  - 620.1811 Appeal from denial of reinstatement.-
- (2) Within 30 days after service of the notice of denial, the limited partnership may appeal from the denial of

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reinstatement by petitioning the <u>district</u> circuit court <u>of</u> <u>appeal</u> to set aside the dissolution. The petition must be served on the Department of State and contain a copy of the Department of State's declaration of dissolution, the limited partnership's application for reinstatement, and the Department of State's notice of denial.

Section 43. Subsection (1) of section 717.1242, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

717.1242 Restatement of jurisdiction of the circuit court sitting in probate and the department.—

(1) It is and has been the intent of the Legislature that, pursuant to s. 26.012(1)(b) s. 26.012(2)(b), circuit courts have jurisdiction of proceedings relating to the settlement of the estates of decedents and other jurisdiction usually pertaining to courts of probate. It is and has been the intent of the Legislature that, pursuant to s. 717.124, the department determines the merits of claims for property paid or delivered to the department under this chapter. Consistent with this legislative intent, any estate or beneficiary, as defined in s. 731.201, of an estate seeking to obtain property paid or delivered to the department under this chapter must file a claim with the department as provided in s. 717.124.

Section 44. Subsection (5) of section 723.0612, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

723.0612 Change in use; relocation expenses; payments by park owner.—

(5) Actions of the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation under this section are not subject to the provisions of chapter 120 but are reviewable only by writ of certiorari in

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the <u>district</u> court <u>of appeal</u> in the <u>appellate district</u> county in which the claimant resides in the manner and within the time provided by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Section 45. Subsection (4) of section 767.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

767.12 Classification of dogs as dangerous; certification of registration; notice and hearing requirements; confinement of animal; exemption; appeals; unlawful acts.—

(4) Upon a dangerous dog classification and penalty becoming final after a hearing or by operation of law pursuant to subsection (3), the animal control authority shall provide a written final order to the owner by registered mail, certified hand delivery or service. The owner may appeal the classification, penalty, or both, to the <u>district circuit</u> court of appeal in accordance with the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure after receipt of the final order. If the dog is not held by the animal control authority, the owner must confine the dog in a securely fenced or enclosed area pending resolution of the appeal. Each applicable local governing authority must establish appeal procedures that conform to this subsection.

Section 46. <u>Section 924.08</u>, <u>Florida Statutes</u>, is repealed. Section 47. This act shall take effect January 1, 2021.