



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 12
[2015 Assembly Bill 3]

**Appeals in Traffic and Municipal
Ordinance Cases**

BACKGROUND

A final judgment, or a final order of a circuit court may generally be appealed to the Court of Appeals. In a traffic forfeiture or municipal ordinance case, a judgment or order of a circuit court is considered final when it disposes of the entire matter in litigation as to one or more of the parties, and is either reduced to writing and filed with the circuit court or, after the matter is “prosecuted in circuit court,” recorded in a docket entry.

In *Village of McFarland v. Zetzman*, the Court of Appeals held that a traffic forfeiture or municipal ordinance case has been “prosecuted in circuit court” either if it originated in circuit court, or if it was appealed there following municipal court proceedings. The court stated that “docket entries resolving traffic forfeiture and municipal ordinance cases serve as final, appealable dispositions....” [*Village of McFarland v. Zetzman*, 2012 WI App 49.]

2015 WISCONSIN ACT 12

2015 Wisconsin Act 12 codifies the Court of Appeals’ decision in *Zetzman*.

Effective date: April 10, 2015

Prepared by: Michael Queensland, Staff Attorney

April 28, 2015

MQ:mcm;jal

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.