

As Reported by the House Education Committee

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

Sub. H. B. No. 43

Representatives Fowler Arthur, Thomas, D.

A BILL

To waive the required minimum instructional hours 1
for Ashtabula Lakeside High School due to the 2
school building being unusable and to declare an 3
emergency. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. Due to winter weather for which the Governor 5
declared a state of emergency and the Ashtabula County Sheriff 6
declared multiple Level Three Snow Emergencies, and that caused 7
residential roads to be unusable for ten days, shutdown of all 8
essential services such as grocery stores and the local 9
hospital, local internet service to be inaccessible for up to a 10
month, structure and roof damage to the Ashtabula County 11
Emergency Response Facility and backup emergency response 12
facility, the collapse of Ashtabula Lakeside High School's roof, 13
and damage to the Ashtabula City School district administrative 14
offices and server which delayed the transition to remote 15
instruction, the Department of Education and Workforce shall do 16
both of the following for the 2024-2025 school year: 17

(A) Provide the Ashtabula City School District with 18
flexibility in granting a high school diploma to a twelfth grade 19

student who attended Ashtabula Lakeside High School based on the 20
student's demonstration of subject area competency, instead of 21
or in combination with completing hours of classroom 22
instruction, pursuant to division (J) of section 3313.603 of the 23
Revised Code; 24

(B) Waive not more than twenty-four of the required 25
minimum number of hours the school building must be open for 26
instruction with students in attendance under section 3313.48 of 27
the Revised Code for the purposes of the school district's 28
eligibility to receive state funds under Chapter 3317. of the 29
Revised Code. 30

Section 2. This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 31
measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 32
peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to 33
ensure that, after the closure of Ashtabula Lakeside High School 34
due to severe winter weather and the school's roof's collapse, 35
affected high school seniors may graduate on time and Ashtabula 36
City School District may maintain its state funding. Therefore, 37
this act shall go into immediate effect. 38