

As Passed by the House

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

Sub. H. B. No. 43

Representatives Fowler Arthur, Thomas, D.

**Cosponsors: Representatives Brennan, Callender, Deeter, Hall, D., Lawson-Rowe,
Miller, J., Santucci, White, A., Williams, Willis**

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

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

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