(136th General Assembly)
(Substitute House Bill Number 43)

AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

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

(A) Provide the Ashtabula City School District with 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.

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Speaker _____ of the House of Representatives.

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President _____ of the Senate.

Passed _____, 20____

Approved _____, 20____

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Governor.

This act is not of a general and permanent nature and does not require a code section number.

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Director, Legislative Service Commission.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio, on the ____ day of _____, A. D. 20____.

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Secretary of State.

File No. _____ Effective Date _____