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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 43  
136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

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**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Fowler Arthur

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### SUMMARY

- Exempts high school seniors who attended Ashtabula Lakeside High School during the 2024-2025 school year from completing the minimum hours of course instruction required for graduation if they were unable to do so because winter weather made the building unusable.
- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to waive the minimum number of hours that Ashtabula Lakeside High School must be open with students in attendance during the 2024-2025 school year for the purposes of the Ashtabula City School District's eligibility to receive state funds.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Winter weather emergency

As a result of the Ashtabula Lakeside High School building being unusable due to winter weather for which the Governor declared a state emergency, the bill requires the Department of Education and Workforce to do both of the following for the 2024-2025 school year:

1. Upon application from the Ashtabula City School District and approval by the Department, waive the requirement for a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student who attended that school building to complete the minimum hours of course instruction required for high school graduation if the student did not complete the minimum hours as a result of the building being unusable; and

2. Waive the required minimum number of hours that school building must be open for instruction with students in attendance for the purposes of the district's eligibility to receive state funds.<sup>1</sup>

## Background

### Instruction required to qualify for high school graduation

Under continuing law, high school students are required to complete twenty units of instruction in specified subjects as a requirement for graduation. Generally, one unit means a minimum of 120 hours of course instruction, though for a laboratory course one unit means a minimum of 150 hours.<sup>2</sup>

### Number of hours a school must be open for instruction

Continuing law requires each school district to have each of its schools open for instruction with students in attendance for a specified number of hours depending on the grade levels the school serves. A school serving students in grades 7-12 must be open for those students for a minimum of 1,001 hours each school year. Each school district board of education must adopt a resolution establishing its school calendar for a school year and no school may reduce the number of hours it is open for instruction without authorization from the board or so that the total number of hours it is open is fewer than 1001 hours of instruction.<sup>3</sup>

Generally, under continuing law, the Department is not authorized to make school foundation payments to a school district in a fiscal year if the district failed to have its schools open for instruction with students in attendance for the required number of hours of instruction.<sup>4</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-03-25

ANHB0043IN-136/ts

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3313.603(C), not in the bill.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3313.48, not in the bill.

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 3317.01, not in the bill.