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H.B. 43
136th General Assembly

Final Analysis

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Primary Sponsors: Reps. Fowler Arthur and D. Thomas

Effective date: Emergency: April 21, 2025

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UPDATED VERSION*

SUMMARY

- Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to provide flexibility to the Ashtabula City School District (ACSD) in granting a high school diploma to a senior who attended Lakeside High School during the 2024-2025 school year, based on the student's demonstration of subject area competency.
- Requires the Department to waive up to 24 hours of the required minimum number of hours that Lakeside High School must be open with students in attendance during the 2024-2025 school year for the purposes of ACSD's eligibility to receive state funds.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Winter weather emergency

The act addresses the closure of Lakeside High School in the Ashtabula City School District (ACSD) due to the collapse of the school's roof because of severe winter weather. Specifically, it requires the Department of Education and Workforce to do both of the following for the 2024-2025 school year:

1. Provide ACSD with flexibility in granting a high school diploma to a senior who attended Lakeside High School during that school year based on the student's demonstration of subject area competency, instead of or in combination with completing hours of classroom instruction; and

* This version updates the effective date.

2. Waive up to 24 of the required minimum number of hours that Lakeside High School must be open for instruction with students in attendance to ensure that ACSD is eligible to receive state funds in the next school year.¹

Continuing law requires high school students to complete 20 units of instruction in specified subjects to qualify for a high school diploma. Each unit requires a minimum number of hours of instruction. The law requires the Department to adopt a statewide plan implementing methods for students to earn units of high school credit based on a demonstration of subject area competency, instead of or in combination with completing hours of classroom instruction.²

Continuing law also 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. Generally, the Department is not authorized to make state foundation payments to a school district in a school year if the district failed to have its schools open for instruction for the required number of hours of instruction.³

HISTORY

| Action | Date |
|------------------------|----------|
| Introduced | 02-03-25 |
| Reported, H. Education | 02-11-25 |
| Passed House (91-6) | 02-26-25 |
| Reported, S. Education | 03-19-25 |
| Passed Senate (32-0) | 04-02-25 |

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¹ Section 1.

² R.C. 3313.603(C) and (J), not in the act.

³ R.C. 3313.48 and 3317.01, neither in the act.