



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

*Edward Millane*

---

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

---

**Bill:** [Sub. H.B. 36 of the 129th G.A.](#)

**Date:** March 10, 2011

**Status:** As Passed by the House

**Sponsor:** Rep. Kozlowski

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Contents:** Excuses up to five, instead of three, calamity days for the 2010-2011 school year, permits schools to make up days by lengthening remaining days in the year, and declares an emergency

### State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

### Local Fiscal Highlights

- School districts may experience a reduction in operating expenditures because the bill allows them to be closed due to public calamities without making up the missed time for two more days in the current school year and to make up additional missed days in half-hour increments, rather than by adding days to the school year.
- Community schools may experience a reduction in operating expenditures or an increase in state revenues because the bill allows them to be closed due to public calamities without making up the missed time or receiving a reduction in state aid as long as they meet the minimum number of hours of instruction.

---

## Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill makes changes to current calamity day law for school districts, including increasing the number of excused calamity days in the current school year and modifying the way in which districts may make up unexcused calamity days. It also specifically permits community schools to have excused calamity days. These changes are discussed in more detail below. Due to the bill's emergency clause, the changes will be effective upon the Governor's signature.

### School district calamity days

Current law requires a minimum school year of 182 days,<sup>1</sup> except that schools may be closed for a certain number of days (up to five most years and up to three in the current school year) due to public calamities such as hazardous weather, without making up any lost instructional time. Each school district must adopt an annual contingency plan that includes adding at least five whole days to the school year, if needed, to make up any days missed in excess of the excused calamity days. For additional days missed beyond those covered in the contingency plan, current law permits school districts to make up days by lengthening regularly scheduled days in half-hour increments, instead of by adding days to the school year.

The bill makes two changes to the provisions mentioned above. First, the bill permits the Superintendent of Public Instruction to excuse up to five, instead of three, calamity days for the current school year. An additional two excused calamity days in the current school year may decrease operating costs for schools that would otherwise have to make up those days. Second, the bill permits a school district to make up the five days covered by its contingency plan by lengthening the remaining days in the school year in half-hour increments, as a district is currently permitted to make up days beyond those covered in its contingency plan. Generally, making up missed days may require additional costs related to busing, food services, and some other support services, as well as additional pay for teachers and some other school employees. Many of these costs, such as busing and food services, may be lower if, instead of adding days to a school year, hours are added to the school day as permitted in the bill.

### Community school calamity days

Current law requires community schools to offer learning opportunities to each student for at least 920 hours per year. The schools report to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) the number of hours they plan to be open, which may be greater than the minimum number of hours. Generally, in order for a community school to receive a full year of funding from ODE, the school must be open for all of the hours that the school reports it will be open. If a school closes due to a public calamity, it must make

---

<sup>1</sup> These days include four days for teacher preparation and reporting and parent conferences.

up that time or the school will not receive payment from ODE for the hours that it was closed.

Under the bill, ODE is required to waive the number of hours of learning opportunities not offered by a community school because it was closed for a public calamity, as long as the school was open for instruction for at least the minimum 920 hours that school year. Schools offering hours over the minimum may experience reduced operating expenditures or increased revenues because they will no longer have to make up hours in order to receive a full year of state payments from ODE.

*HB0036HP.docx / sle*