

SB 160 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon public universities and community colleges to award academic credit to incoming students who earn a score of four or higher on International Baccalaureate (IB) exam. Permits universities and community colleges to require higher IB scores if they receive approval from a committee convened by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Applies to students entering an Oregon university or community college in the 2021-2022 academic year.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

International Baccalaureate (IB) is an educational program established by the nonprofit International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) in Geneva, Switzerland in 1968 to provide the children of diplomats with a common curriculum that would be recognized as these students moved across international borders. Today, the IB program has expanded to the general student population, providing a curriculum based on international standards to more than 4,000 schools worldwide. In 2017, 17 Oregon high schools offered an IB program, with 2,292 students completing 5,595 IB courses. The IB program requires high school students to complete an external, standardized exam for each IB course. Scores on these exams range from one (lowest) to seven (highest). Many universities and colleges will offer college credit to student who receive a minimum score on an IB exam. Typically, Oregon public universities and community colleges award credit for IB exam scores of five or higher. Senate Bill 160 would require all Oregon public universities and community colleges to award credit for scores of four or higher, unless an institution is granted an exception. This bill is modeled on SB 207 (2017) that required public higher education institutions to provide credit to students completing Advanced Placement (AP) examinations.