

SB 160 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/29, 5/6

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 the 2021-2022 academic year.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Clarification on selection of "4" as mastery level
- Cost of IB and AP exams for students
- Selection over IB or AP for high schools

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The International Baccalaureate (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 students 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. This bill is modeled after Senate Bill 207 (2017) that required public higher education institutions to provide credit to students completing Advanced Placement (AP) examinations.

Senate Bill 160 would require all Oregon public universities and community colleges to award credit for IB scores of four or higher, unless an institution is granted an exception.