

**SB 160 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Carrier:** Sen. Heard**Senate Committee On Education**


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**Action Date:** 03/20/19  
**Action:** Do pass.  
**Vote:** 4-0-1-0  
**Yeas:** 4 - Hass, Heard, Thomsen, Wagner  
**Exc:** 1 - Gelser  
**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
**Prepared By:** Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst  
**Meeting Dates:** 2/13, 3/20

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**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.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- History of legislation related to IB and Advanced Placement (AP) course credits
- Parity of IB and AP courses
- Duplicating IB content in college and university courses
- Relationship between where prerequisite is taken (high school or college) and grades in subsequent courses
- Acceptance of IB courses by Oregon community college and public universities
- Difference between standard level and higher level IB exams
- Acceptance of IB courses for college credit in other states

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 1968, the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), located in Geneva, Switzerland, established an educational program 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 and provides 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 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. 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 Senate Bill 207 (2017) that required public higher education institutions to provide credit to students completing Advanced Placement (AP) examinations.