Washington State House of Representatives Office of Program Research

BILL ANALYSIS

Transportation Committee

HB 1714

Brief Description: Implementing a biometric matching system program.

Sponsors: Representatives Klippert, Finn, Pearson, McCune, Hope and Ross.

Brief Summary of Bill

• Requires the Department of Licensing to share the biometric matching system with official governmental enforcement agencies under certain circumstances.

Hearing Date: 2/14/11

Staff: Debbie Driver (786-7143).

Background:

Biometrics consist of processes to recognize an individual based on one or more physical or behavioral trait. Facial biometrics is the use of technology to identify individuals by focusing on physical facial features of the individual. The Department of Licensing (DOL) requires all enhanced driver's license and enhanced identicard applicants to participate in the biometrics program. The DOL has a voluntary biometrics program for all other driver's license and identicard applicants.

The DOL may not disclose biometric information to the public or any governmental entity except when authorized by court order.

Summary of Bill:

The DOL is to make the biometric system program available to official governmental enforcement agencies to assist in the agency investigation of suspected criminal activity or to verify the identity of an individual when a law enforcement officer is authorized by law to request identification from an individual.

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This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Preliminary Fiscal Note Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is

passed.

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