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**Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness  
Committee**

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**HB 1689**

**Brief Description:** Allowing booking photographs and electronic images at jails to be open to the public.

**Sponsors:** Representative Hurst.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requires each county and city jail to include booking photographs as part of its jail register.

**Hearing Date:** 2/11/11

**Staff:** Yvonne Walker (786-7841).

**Background:**

Each city and county jail located in Washington is required to maintain a jail register which is open to the public. The law enforcement officer who is charged with being responsible for the operation of the jail must enter, on a timely basis, the name of each person held in confinement, the reason for confinement, when the person was confined, and the time and the manner in which the person was discharged.

Generally, all other records regarding a person confined in jail are confidential and may only be released to a criminal justice agency or upon the written consent of the person being confined. Law enforcement may use the booking photographs of a person arrested and confined in a jail or prison to assist in conducting criminal investigations. Certain information and photographs of persons convicted of a sex offense may be released to the public for community protection purposes.

**Summary of Bill:**

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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.*

Each county and city jail must include booking photographs or electronic images of each person confined in jail as part of its jail register.

Various technical changes are made, including the deletion of a provision of the act that was repealed by the Legislature in 1987, and adding the authorization to release records relating to kidnapers which is consistent with current statute under RCW 4.24.550.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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