

House Bill 188

By: Representatives Rynders of the 152<sup>nd</sup>, Manning of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Walker of the 107<sup>th</sup>, Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Willard of the 49<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 15-12-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 exemptions from jury duty, so as to provide for an exemption for a primary caregiver of a  
3 person aged six or older with physical or cognitive limitations; to repeal conflicting laws; and  
4 for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 15-12-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to exemptions  
8 from jury duty, is amended in subsection (a) by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:  
9 "(5) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, any person who is the primary  
10 unpaid caregiver for a person over the age of six; who executes an affidavit on a form  
11 provided by the court stating that such primary caregiver is responsible for the care of a  
12 person with such physical or cognitive limitations that he or she is unable to care for  
13 himself or herself and cannot be left unattended and that the primary caregiver has no  
14 reasonably available alternative to provide for the care; and who requests to be excused  
15 or deferred shall be excused or deferred from jury duty for not more than five years  
16 depending on the circumstances. The length of such excusal or deferral shall be at the  
17 discretion of the court. At the expiration of the time of any such excusal or deferral, the  
18 primary caregiver may request that the excusal or deferral continue if the circumstances  
19 of the caregiving are unchanged. Such excusal or deferral shall be continued for the same  
20 length of time as long as the caregiving responsibilities remain unchanged. It is the  
21 responsibility of the primary caregiver to advise the court if the caregiving  
22 responsibilities change in such a way that the primary caregiver is able to serve on a jury,  
23 and at that time such excusal or deferral shall end."

24 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

25 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.