

Senate Resolution 344

By: Senators Henson of the 41st, Millar of the 40th, Mullis of the 53rd, Butler of the 55th, Fort of the 39th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 1, 2017, as Independent Living Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to nine Centers of Independent Living (CILs) and one
4 Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC); and

5 WHEREAS, Centers for Independent Living are community-based, cross-disability,
6 non-profit organizations that are designed and operated by people with disabilities. CILs are
7 unique in that they operate according to a strict philosophy of consumer control, wherein
8 people with all types of disabilities directly govern and staff the organization; and

9 WHEREAS, Centers for Independent Living were created to be run by and for people with
10 disabilities, and offer support, advocacy, and information on empowerment in the attainment
11 of independence from a peer viewpoint, a perspective that was hitherto excluded from
12 participation in the discussion and execution of "services for the disabled"; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia Centers for Independent Living fight similar battles to ensure that the
14 rights of people with disabilities are protected. Even with the passage of the Americans with
15 Disabilities Act, people with disabilities often find that advocacy and support from the
16 disability community and the Disability Rights Movement is an essential element in
17 enforcement of the civil rights law; and

18 WHEREAS, the Independent Living Movement is founded in the belief that people with
19 disabilities, regardless of the form, have a common history and a shared struggle, which we
20 are a community and a culture that will advance further banded together politically; and

21 WHEREAS, Independent Living philosophy emphasizes consumer control, the idea that
22 people with disabilities are the best experts on their own needs, having crucial and valuable
23 perspective to contribute and deserving of equal opportunity to decide how to live, work, and

24 take part in their communities, particularly in reference to services that powerfully affect
25 their day-to-day lives and access to independence; and

26 WHEREAS, the dedicated efforts of the professionals, advocates, and volunteers, who have
27 served over 2,000 individuals this past year and who make it their mission to advocate for
28 equality across this great state, are hereby commended with much gratitude.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 recognize March 1, 2017, as Independent Living Day at the state capitol.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
32 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
33 press.