

## House Resolution 1065

By: Representatives Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, England of the 116<sup>th</sup>, Houston of the 170<sup>th</sup>, Dickey of the 140<sup>th</sup>, and Parrish of the 158<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 8, 2018, as Independent Living Day at the state capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Independent Living Movement is founded in the belief that all people with  
4 disabilities, regardless of the form of their disability, have a common history and shared  
5 struggle, are part of one community and culture, and that they will advance together when  
6 they are united politically; and

7 WHEREAS, the independent living philosophy emphasizes the idea that people with  
8 disabilities are the best experts on their own needs, consumer control, the crucial and  
9 valuable perspectives contributed by people with disabilities, equal opportunity, and the  
10 inherent right of those with disabilities to decide how to live, work, and take part in their  
11 communities, especially with regard to services that powerfully affect their daily lives and  
12 access to independence; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to one Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and nine  
14 Centers for Independent Living (CILs); and

15 WHEREAS, SILC works to identify societal barriers inhibiting independent living and  
16 collaborates with the Centers for Independent Living, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation  
17 Agency, and other related entities to remove those barriers and to increase the support and  
18 services necessary to create independent living opportunities for those with disabilities; and

19 WHEREAS, CILs were created to be run by and for people with disabilities, and offer  
20 support, advocacy, information, and empowerment for the attainment of independence from  
21 a peer viewpoint, a perspective that was previously excluded from participation in the  
22 discussion and execution of services for the disabled; and

23 WHEREAS, Georgia Centers for Independent Living fight similar battles to ensure that the  
24 rights of people with disabilities are protected. Despite the passage of the Americans with  
25 Disabilities Act, people with disabilities often find that advocacy and support from the  
26 disability community and the Disability Rights Movement are essential elements in  
27 maintaining enforcement of civil rights laws; and

28 WHEREAS, SILC, the CILs, and other entities that advocate for people with disabilities  
29 collectively comprise the Georgia Independent Living Network; and

30 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the dedicated efforts of the professionals,  
31 advocates, volunteers, and persons with disabilities who collectively serve thousands of  
32 individuals each year and tirelessly advocate for equality be acknowledged for their  
33 outstanding contributions to the State of Georgia.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
35 the members of this body commend the Statewide Independent Living Council and the  
36 Georgia Independent Living Network for their past, present, and future work in service of  
37 people with disabilities, encourage all citizens to support their efforts to empower the  
38 differently abled, and recognize February 8, 2018, as Independent Living Day at the state  
39 capitol.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
41 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
42 Statewide Independent Living Council, the Georgia Independent Living Network, the public,  
43 and the press.