

House Bill 1081

By: Representatives Neal of the 79<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 25<sup>th</sup>, Oliver of the 84<sup>th</sup>, and Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 5 of Title 30 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 protection of disabled adults and elder persons, so as to provide for adults with cognitive  
3 decline to be considered disabled adults; to provide for definitions; to provide for related  
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

7 Chapter 5 of Title 30 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to protection of  
8 disabled adults and elder persons, is amended by revising paragraph (5) of Code Section  
9 30-5-3, relating to definitions, and adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

10 "(2.1) 'Cognitive decline' means an irreversible loss of cognitive function exceeding that  
11 of normal aging and impacting daily functions as indicated by one or more of the  
12 following symptoms:

13 (A) Significant memory loss;

14 (B) Difficulty with complex tasks, including, but not limited to, planning, problem  
15 solving, following multistep instructions, or managing finances;

16 (C) Confusion about time or place;

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- 17 (D) Difficulty communicating with words and language;  
18 (E) Poor judgment, including, but not limited to, making uncharacteristic financial  
19 decisions or neglecting personal hygiene;  
20 (F) Behavioral changes, including, but not limited to, increased irritability, anxiety,  
21 depression, or uncharacteristic mood swings; or  
22 (G) Social withdrawal, including, but not limited to, withdrawing from work, hobbies,  
23 or social activities."  
24 "(5) 'Disabled adult' means a person 18 years of age or older who is not a resident, but  
25 who:  
26 (A) Is mentally or physically incapacitated;  
27 (B) Has Alzheimer's disease, as defined in Code Section 31-8-180; or  
28 (C) Has dementia, as defined in Code Section 16-5-100; or  
29 (D) Is exhibiting symptoms of cognitive decline."

30 **SECTION 2.**

31 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.