

FSB Bill Clears Duma Amid New Protests

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The  **Moscow Times**

The State Duma approved in a third and final reading Friday a bill that will expand the powers of the Federal Security Service to allow it to issue warnings to people whose actions "create the conditions for a crime."

No definition of those actions is provided in the bill, stirring fears of possible abuse among human rights activists.

The Duma passed the bill in a vote of 354-96, with deputies from the Communist and A Just Russia parties voting against it.

The Federation Council is expected to approve the bill Monday, [it said](#) on its web site. The legislation will then go to President Dmitry Medvedev to be signed into law.

Medvedev defended the bill at a news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel last week, calling the changes a domestic security matter.

But human rights group Memorial [denounced it](#), comparing it in a statement with a 1972 decree that allowed the KGB, the FSB's predecessor, to warn dissidents who went public with

their views to not engage in "anti-social activities that contradict national security."

Three activists with the liberal opposition Yabloko party were detained Friday as they distributed leaflets opposing the bill outside the Duma, [Yabloko said](#).

The Duma approved a total of 24 bills on Friday, its last working day before adjourning for the summer recess. Deputies passed an all-time-record 249 bills in the spring session, [the Duma's web site said](#).

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