

St. Petersburg Enacts Limits on Gays

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The  Moscow Times

Local lawmakers in St. Petersburg, on a third and final reading, passed a controversial law Wednesday that introduces fines for promoting gay and lesbian relationships in the presence of minors and advocating pedophilia, Interfax reported.

Critics say the law effectively bans gay-pride parades and other public displays or discussion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender sexual orientations.

The law stipulates a 5,000 ruble (\$170) fine for individual violators, a 50,000 ruble fine for officials and up to 500,000 rubles from legal entities that break the law.

The legislation has provoked outcry from gay-rights advocates in Russia and around the world, even while other city legislatures in Russia announced they would consider adopting similar measures.

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