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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

'Gay Propaganda' Ban Raised

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A leading official in the Russian Orthodox Church has urged federal lawmakers to adopt a bill outlawing what he called the promotion of homosexuality among minors.

Similar legislation approved late February in Russia's second-largest city, St. Petersburg, mandated fines of up to $33,000.

Father Dmitry Pershin, head of the church's youth council, said Monday in a statement that the law should be applied nationwide "without delay."

Gay-rights activists say the law could be used to ban any public demonstrations of support for gay rights.

(AP)

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