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Duma Passes Citizenship Bills in First Reading

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The State Duma on Tuesday passed two bills in their first reading that would simplify the procedure for obtaining Russian citizenship.

The first bill would make it easier to become a Russian citizen for children who live abroad and have a parent who is a Russian citizen, Interfax reported. The bill would not require the second parent to provide consent for the child's Russian citizenship, Duma Speaker Sergei Naryshkin said.

The other bill would streamline the procedure for getting a Russian passport for people who join the program for the repatriation of Russians and their families, Naryshkin said. If the legislation is passed, it would drop the current residency requirement of five years spent in Russia, as well as the residence permit, confirmation of a legitimate source of income and passage of a language exam.

(MT)

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