

Russian Lawmakers Propose Fining Government Officials for Insulting Citizens

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Sergei Kiselyov / Moskva News Agency

Communist lawmakers in Russia have submitted a bill that would introduce fines for officials who disrespect their voters, Interfax [reported](#) on Thursday.

Public officials across Russia have increasingly made national headlines for being caught on record insulting regular citizens. The mayor of a smog-hit mining town landed in hot water on Wednesday for [calling](#) his townspeople, who had [appealed](#) to President Vladimir Putin over the ecological crisis, “excrement.”

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“Today, we have introduced a bill making civil servants’ humiliating and disrespectful

attitude toward voters an administrative offense," State Duma deputy Sergei Kazankov told journalists.

The [bill](#) seeks to introduce fines for offending officials of up to 50,000 rubles (\$750) for first infractions. A repeat offense or an especially rude remark would result in the civil servants' suspension for up to three years.

"This bill does not apply to journalists and bloggers" who publish the insulting remarks, Interfax quoted Kazankov as saying.

Its introduction [follows](#) a Duma vote last month on a bill seeking to impose fines for insulting Russian institutions and spreading "untruthful socially significant information," known otherwise as fake news.

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