The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

# Russian Lawmakers Propose Fining Government Officials for Insulting Citizens

February 14, 2019



**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."

**Related article**: Russian Lawmakers Move to Criminalize 'Disrespecting' the Government and Fake News

"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.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/02/14/russian-lawmakers-propose-fining-government-officials-insulting-citizens-a64496