

Russian Government Rejects Proposal to Fine Officials for Insulting Citizens

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Andrei Lyubimov / Moskva News Agency

The Russian government has rejected a bill that would have introduced fines for officials who exhibit disrespect toward citizens, weeks after lawmakers passed a bill that introduced fines for disrespecting the authorities.

Communist lawmakers introduced the legislation in February, seeking to <u>fine</u> and suspend civil servants for humiliating voters. Around the same time, another bill that <u>criminalized</u> "blatant disrespect" of Russian authorities was swiftly making its way through the State Duma and became <u>law</u> in March.

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The government legislative commission rejected the proposed bill as "unnecessary" due to existing anti-insult laws, the state-run TASS news agency <u>reported</u> on Wednesday.

Public officials across Russia have increasingly made national headlines for being caught on record insulting regular citizens, at times using terms like "excrement" and "riff-raff" to refer to them.

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