

Russian Lawmakers Approve Debt Relief Bill for New Army Recruits

November 19, 2024



Vasily Kuzmichenok / Moskva News Agency

Lawmakers in Russia's lower house of parliament on Tuesday [passed a bill](#) granting debt relief to newly enlisted soldiers starting next month.

Under the bill, debts of up to 10 million rubles (\$99,400) [would be canceled](#) for individuals who sign military contracts or are mobilized on or after Dec. 1, 2024. Servicemen who already enlisted in the army are not eligible.

To qualify, court-ordered debt enforcement must be issued before next month. The legislation would also [waive](#) debt enforcement fees, typically 7% of the total debt, and extend soldiers' loan payment deferral period from 30 to 180 days.

Applications for these "loan payment holidays" must be submitted between Dec. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024. Spouses of soldiers would also be eligible for the benefits.

The bill now faces a vote in the upper-house Federation Council, where some lawmakers have

already [voiced their support](#). If passed, the bill would then require President Vladimir Putin's signature to become law.

Authorities in Russia have spent months ramping up incentives for men to join the military — including huge sign-up bonuses and an array of social benefits for soldiers and their families — as Moscow seeks to replenish its forces fighting in Ukraine without resorting to another unpopular mobilization drive.

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