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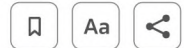
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Russia extends conscription for compulsory military service up to age 30

By Reuters

July 25, 2023 4:34 PM GMT+3 · Updated July 25, 2023



July 25 (Reuters) - Russia's lower house of parliament voted on Tuesday to raise the maximum age at which men can be conscripted to 30 years from 27, increasing the number of young men liable for a year of compulsory military service at any one time.

Last year, Russia announced a plan to boost its professional and conscripted combat personnel by more than 30% to 1.5 million, an ambitious task made harder by its heavy but undisclosed casualties in Ukraine.

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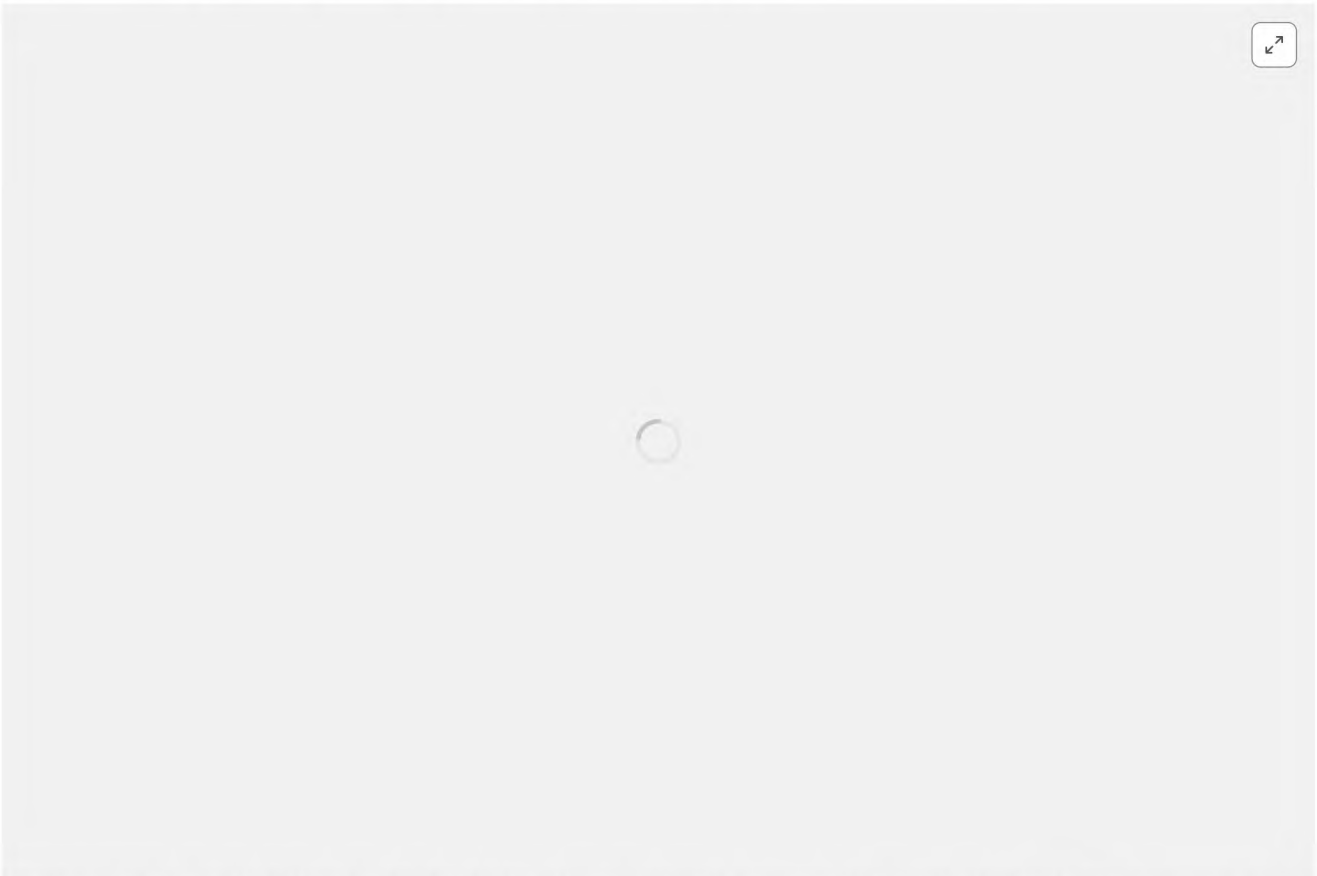
The new legislation, which comes into effect on Jan. 1, means men will be required to carry out a year of military service, or equivalent training during higher education, between the ages of 18 and 30, rather than 18 and 27 as now.

The law also bans men from leaving Russia from the day they are summoned to a conscription office. In April, legislation was passed allowing conscription summonses to be served online instead of in person.

Compulsory military service has long been a sensitive issue in Russia, where many men go to great lengths to avoid being handed conscription papers during the twice-yearly call-up periods.

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Conscripts cannot legally be deployed to fight outside Russia and were in theory exempted from a limited mobilisation last autumn that gathered at least 300,000 men with previous military training to fight in Ukraine - although some conscripts were sent to the front in error.



[1/2] Russian servicemen and conscripts called up for military service line up before their departure for garrisons as they gather at a recruitment centre in Sevastopol, Crimea, July 6, 2023. REUTERS/Alexey Pavlishak/File Photo [Purchase Licensing Rights](#)



However, Russia unilaterally claimed four Ukrainian regions as its own last September, in a move not recognised internationally, fuelling fears that raw conscripts could now legally be sent into battle.

Separately, the legislation passed on Tuesday gives Russian governors the power to set up regional paramilitary units during periods of mobilisation or martial law. These units would be funded and armed by the state and given the right to shoot down drones, fight enemy sabotage groups and conduct counter-terrorist operations.

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Andrei Kartapolov, a former general who chairs the defence committee of the lower house, the State Duma, said the changes would formalise the creation of militias.

The topic has gained importance since an abortive armed mutiny last month by Yevgeny Prigozhin's Wagner mercenary force, which is largely funded by the state but fought in Ukraine as a unit with broad autonomy.

"The people's militia - how it will operate, who it will consist of ... it is absolutely clear and understandable," Kartapolov told lawmakers.

Reporting by Philipp Lebedev; Writing by Caleb Davis; Editing by Kevin Liffey

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Italy foiled Russia-linked cyberattacks on embassies, Olympic sites, minister says

Olympics · February 4, 2026 · 3:47 PM GMT+2 · 12 mins ago

Italy has thwarted a series of cyberattacks targeting its foreign ministry facilities, including an embassy in Washington, as well as websites linked to the Winter Olympics and hotels in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said on Tuesday.



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