

Sick-Leave Rules to Change

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The  **Moscow Times**

A bill introduced into the State Duma by the Health and Social Development Ministry will cut payments during sick leave, Rossiiskaya Gazeta reported Monday.

People on sick leave are currently compensated 60 percent of their salary if they have been officially employed for up to five years, 80 percent for five to eight years' work experience, and 100 percent after that. But the terms will be extended to eight and 15 years, respectively, the report said.

The state-controlled Social Insurance Fund, which finances sick-leave payments, hopes to save 73.7 billion rubles (\$2.4 billion) a year and end its current deficit, a ministry representative said.

It was unclear when the bill, opposed by both employers and workers unions, might be reviewed by the Duma. ❏

(MT)

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