

Parliament approves amendment that would allow Putin to run for president in 2024



Moscow, March 11 (RHC)-- Russian parliament's upper chamber, the Federation Council, approved a bill Wednesday containing constitutional amendments that would allow President Vladimir Putin to run for a fifth presidential term in 2024.

160 members of the chamber voted for the bill, one voted against it and three abstained.

The approval came just hours after parliament's lower chamber, the State Duma, approved the bill in its final version.

One of the amendments approved by the State Duma will set Putin's previous presidential terms back to zero, giving him the right to seek a new term in 2024 after his current second sequential presidential term ends.

This raises the possibility that he could stay in power until 2036 if he wins in 2024 and then gets reelected six years later.

The constitutional changes must be approved by the Constitutional Court and will be considered legally approved if more than half of the country's voters support it.

A referendum on the issue has been scheduled for April 22.

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