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GERMANY VOTES TO BRING BACK VOLUNTARY MILITARY SERVICE FOR 18-YEAR-OLDS

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BBC News (5 December 2025)

Bethany Bell

Germany's parliament, the Bundestag, has voted to introduce voluntary military service, in a move aimed at boosting national defences after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

It marks a significant shift in Germany's approach to its military and follows Chancellor Friedrich Merz's push to create Europe's strongest conventional army.

The change means that all 18-year-olds in Germany will be sent a questionnaire from January 2026 asking if they are interested and willing to join the armed forces. The form will be mandatory for men and voluntary for women.

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Kaynak/Source: