

Enforcing ban low priority: Councillor

Legislation tabled yesterday that would ban smoking in cars where kids are present will be tough to enforce, a city councillor says.

"I'm not even sure it's enforceable," said Orleans Coun. Bob Monette. "I don't think it's going to be easy."

Monette was the only city councillor not to throw his support behind the effort to make it a provincial offence

to smoke in a car when there are kids under the age of 16 present.

Monette said he spoke with one police officer who suggested enforcing the ban will not only be nearly impossible but would be a low priority for the force.

The officer would have to observe someone in a car smoking, determine whether there are other people and

estimate the age of the other occupants, all before the decision is made to stop the vehicle, Monette said.

"It's just not going to happen," he said, "and they have many more important things to do. It's a waste of time to introduce a law you can't even enforce."

A spokesman for the ministry of health promotion said the law will fall under

the Highway Traffic Act and will be enforceable by both municipal police forces and the OPP.

"When this law is passed, all police officers in Ontario will have the authority to enforce it," said Ottawa police spokesman Const. Jean-Paul Viucelette. "Just like they enforce any other law under that act."

— Terri Saunders