# Proposed anti-smoking bill by PM Rishi Sunak faces resistance from Conservative MPs



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's proposed anti-smoking bill is facing resistance from Conservative MPs. Sunak aimed for a legislative legacy by implementing a smoking ban that would prohibit the sale of tobacco to anyone born after January 1, 2009. Despite the significant backing from Sunak, the bill has been controversial within his party, with Tory MPs indicating it is too divisive to rush through Parliament without thorough scrutiny ahead of the impending general election.

Commons Leader Penny Mordaunt has announced the agenda for the final days before Parliament is dissolved for the election on July 4, 2024. The Tobacco and Vapes Bill was notably absent from the list of laws set to be expedited through the 'wash-up' process, a period when urgent legislative measures are pushed through before Parliament dissolves. This omission suggests the bill might be shelved.

Labour has expressed support for the smoking ban and may reintroduce it if they win the election. Sunak's plan, if implemented, would gradually raise the minimum age for buying cigarettes, aiming for a "smoke-free generation" by eventually prohibiting tobacco sales to people born after 2009.

Mordaunt indicated the priority would be given to other significant legislations like compensation for infected blood scandal victims and the Post Office Horizon scandal. Meanwhile, contentious bills such as the smoking ban remain in legislative limbo amid ongoing discussions with opposition parties.