

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2010/2011
AS AT 1 APRIL 2010**

NO	#	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE	CATEGORY
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES				
1.		Agricultural Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to, inter alia, strengthen/widen the Corporation's functions/power and change the name of the corporation.	4
2.		Animal Disease and Importation of (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate importation, distribution, storage of animal products including milk and by-products with regard to disease and safety	5
3.		Aquaculture Inland and Marine Products and By-Products (Inspection, Licensing and Export) (Amendment) Bill	To plug loopholes discovered in the Act since the opening of the conch season in 2001 and make provision for imports.	5
4.		Fishing Industry (Amendment) Bill	To repeal and replace existing Act for the better management of the fishing industry	5
5.		Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Bill	To provide a framework for the effective functioning of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources in Jamaica.	5
6.		Plants (Quarantine) (Amendment) Bill	To harmonise sanitary and phytosanitary measures with WTO requirements.	5
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION				
7.	1	Council of Community Colleges (Amendment) Bill	To make express provision empowering the Council to: (1) grant and confer certificates, diplomas, degrees and other academic awards and (2) rescind such awards in the event that the necessity should arise.	4
8.	2	Jamaica Teaching Council Bill	To provide for the establishment of the Jamaica Teaching Council, consequential amendments to the provisions of the Education Act dealing with the Teachers Service Commission, and for the introduction of a system of teacher licensing	5
9.	3	National Parenting Support Commission Bill	To provide for the establishment of a National Parenting Support Commission to oversee the implementation and operation of the National Parenting Policy.	5
MINISTRY OF ENERGY & MINING				
10.	1	Petroleum (Quality Control) Bill Petroleum (Quality Control) Regulations	To provide for the regulation of the petroleum sector as it relates to petroleum safety.	4
11.	2	Petroleum and Oil (Conveyance) Bill	To provide for safety measures for conveyance of petroleum.	5
12.	3	Petroleum and Oil Fuel (Landing and Storage) (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the regulation of the petroleum sector as it pertains to the storage of petroleum. Bureau of Standards to be responsible for testing imported petroleum.	5

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| 7 | Cabinet Approval of Drafting instructions | | | | |

 – Prime Minister's Priority

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NO	#	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE	CATEGORY
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & FOREIGN TRADE				
13.	1	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide Bill	To implement the obligations under the Convention	5
14.	2	Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and their Destruction Bill	To implement the obligations under the Convention and those established under the United Nations Security Council	5
15.	3	Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines on their Destruction Bill	To implement obligations under the Convention	5
16.	4	Geneva Conventions and its Protocols Bill	To provide for implementing the obligations under the Convention.	5
17.	5	Inter-American Agreement Against Illicit Manufacturing of & Trafficking in Arms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials Bill	To implement the obligations under the Convention	5
18.	6	Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction Bill	To implement obligations under the Convention.	6
19.	7	Legislation to regulate diving activities	To regulate commercial diving activities and diving equipment, safety standards etc.	6
MINISTRY OF FINANCE & THE PUBLIC SERVICE				
20.	1	Credit Reporting Bill	To establish licensing system for a credit bureau	2
21.	2	Tourist (Duty Free) Shopping System (Change of Name) (Amendment) Bill	To provide for establishment of duty free shopping system for arriving passengers. To include provisions re penalties, loose stones to be included in definition of approved goods, revision of issues related to contents of the sales slip.	3
22.	3	Payment Clearing and Settlement (Bill)	To enact new legislation to regulate the payment system and give Bank of Jamaica the authority to regulate the payment system	4
		BOJ Act (Amendment) Bill	Companion Bill to include provisions that will give BOJ the necessary regulatory powers over the national payment system	5

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE & THE PUBLIC SERVICE				
23.	4	The Loan (Amendment) Bill	The increase of the loan raising authority from \$700 billion under the Loan Act, 1964, and subsequent amendments to \$920 billion	4
24.	5	Customs (Amendment) Bill General Consumption Tax (Amendment) Bill	To restructure proposed tax measures on imported motor vehicles	5
25.	6	Deposit Insurance (Amendment) Bill	Cancellation of tax exemption enjoyed by certain public enterprises	5
26.	7	Deposit Insurance (Amendment) Bill	To address weaknesses identified in the legislation	5
27.	8	Income Tax (Amendment) Bill (No.1)	To provide incentives to companies listed on the Jamaica Stock Exchange Junior Market	5
28.	9	International Financial Services Authority Bill	To be special purpose vehicle for the development of international financial services sector	5
29.	10	Pensions (Superannuation Funds and Retirement Schemes) (Amendment) Bill	To address the issue of the licensing of investment managers; conditional registration of pension schemes; fees for Investment Managers; harmonization of contribution limit with limits in Income Tax Amendment, 2008.	5
		Pensions Validation Bill	To validate the actions of the Financial Commission for collecting licensing fees for investment managers	5
30.	11	Pensions (Superannuation Funds and Retirement Schemes) (Amendment) Bill	Regulation of National Pension Scheme - vesting, portability and indexation	5
31.	12	Public Bodies (Management & Accountability) (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen the existing legislative framework of accountability in public bodies, including compliance with government's procurement rules. To implement a financial distribution policy for self-financing public bodies.	5
32.	13	Retiring Allowances (Legislative Service) (Amendment) Bill	Validation of Acts of Parliamentarians where court overturns elections.	5
33.	14	Revenue Administration (Amendment) Bill	This allows appeals department to deal with certain matters in the Revenue Court.	5
34.	15	Insurance (Amendment) Bill	To address weaknesses identified in the legislation	6

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE & THE PUBLIC SERVICE				
35.	16	Income Tax (Amendment) Bill (No. 2)	To increase Income Tax threshold and to provide for increase in income rate by individuals.	7
36.	17	Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill	Reduction of Stamp Duty	7
37.	18	Transfer Tax (Amendment) Bill	Reduction of Transfer Tax	7
MINISTRY OF HEALTH				
38.	1	Childcare and Protection (Children's Homes) Validation and Indemnity Bill	To validate and confirm acts done in good faith by CDA in enforcing the provisions of the regulations and to indemnify persons from liability in respect of such acts as the regulations were published before parliamentary approval was received.	3
39.	2	Mental Health (Amendment) Bill	To provide for treatment of patients by Mental Health Officers without their consent.	4
40.	3	Radiation (Safety & Control) Bill	To regulate safety of radiation to users & unsuspecting public	4
41.	4	Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Bill	To implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical weapons and on their destruction.	5
42.	5	Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill	To include and define over-the-counter products and five new categories of substances for human consumption.	5
43.	6	Health & Allied Professions and Services (Increase in Monetary Penalties) Bill	To address the issue of fines in all acts relating to the health portfolio.	5
44.	7	National Registration Bill	To provide for the compulsory registration of all citizens ordinarily resident in Jamaica	5
45.	8	Nurses and Midwives (Amendment) Bill	To establish Nurse Practitioner Council to regulate control and monitor all categories of Nurse Practitioner.	5
46.	9	Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill	To authorise the prescribing of specified drugs by Nurse Practitioners.	5
47.	10	Rotterdam Convention on the Informed Consent Bill	To provide for prior informed consent for hazardous chemical.	5

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MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT & COMMERCE				
48.	1	Companies (Amendment) Bill	i. To improve transitional arrangements for those companies registered under 1965 Act. ii. To de-register companies that fail to file Articles of Continuation.	5
49.	2	Cooperative & Friendly Societies (Amendment) Bill (No.1)	(i) To place the activities of Credit Unions within the regulatory ambit of BOJ; (ii) To develop Youth Credit Unions, (iii) To register deposit taking businesses, amalgamation, conversion and acquisitions among other things; (iv) To restrict the deposit taking activities of the Co-operative Societies.	5
50.	3	Copyright (Amendment) Bill	To ensure Jamaica's accession to the WIPO Copyright Treaty. To incorporate provisions of the WIPO copyright Treaty to protect authors, composers and creators of literature.	5
51.	4	Customs Duties (Dumping & Subsidies) (Amendment) Bill	To bring Act in close harmony with WTO anti-dumping agreement	5
52.	5	Fair Competition (Amendment) Bill	To improve efficacy of Act, following 2001 case of Jamaica Stock Exchange vs. Fair Trading Commission	5
53.	6	Patents & Industrial Designs Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To replace and repeal Patents Act and the Design Act, in order to fulfil all the provisions of the Trade-Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and the USA/Jamaica Bilateral Treaty on Intellectual Property. • (To bring Act into conformity with international standards of protection for inventors and innovators). 	5
54.	7	Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill	To improve efficiency of Act and amend typographical errors.	5
MINISTRY OF LABOUR & SOCIAL SECURITY				
55.	1	Foreign Nationals & Commonwealth Citizens (Amendment) Bill & Regulations	(i) To facilitate entry of certain categories of CARICOM Nationals into Jamaica without need for work permits pursuant to CSM. (ii) To increase fines and penalties and allow future amendments to these to be done by Ministerial Order.	5
56.	2	Minimum Wage (Amendment) Bill	To amend section 3 of the Minimum Wage Act to exclude the operation of Section 29(b) of the Interpretation Act on the fine and penalty under the National Minimum Wage Orders.	5

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NO	#	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE	CATEGORY
MINISTRY OF LABOUR & SOCIAL SECURITY				
57.	3	National Assistance Bill	To incorporate institutional changes under the Social Safety Net Reform (a Unified Benefits Programme) and repeal the Poor Relief Law of 1886.	5
58.	4	National Disabilities Bill	To provide for further protection and legal entrenchment of rights of persons with disabilities	5
59.	5	National Insurance (Amendment) Bill	To provide funeral grants for special pensioners (persons born prior to 1 January 1908 to qualify for a special pension w.e.f. 1 April 2008) and enlarge the category of persons eligible to receive special pensions.	5
60.	6	Occupational Health & Safety Bill	To provide for safety standards at workplace	5
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY				
61.	1	Firearms (Amendment) Bill (No.2)	To make similar provisions to the Offences Against the Person Act where the court may hand down a sentence of 15 years in cases of serious crimes.	2
62.	2	DNA Evidence Bill	To provide for the taking of DNA samples from persons arrested in relation to specified offences.	5
63.	3	Port Security Bill	To grant jurisdiction to MNS for port security standards and regulations and to set up Security Agency	5
64.	4	Private Security Regulation Authority (Amendment) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase fees and fines; • To amend Section 12 to widen the circumstances under which licences can be revoked or refused; • To amend Section 17 to provide an exception under the Companies Act for lifting the corporate veil to ascertain the identities of company directors and shareholder. 	5
65.	5	Constabulary Force (Amendment) Bill	To amend section 5 of the Act to provide for a term of enlistment for gazetted officers and to increase applicable fine for contravention.	7

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NO	#	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE	CATEGORY
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE				
66.	1	Bail (Interim Provisions for specified Offences) Bill	To provide for person charged with specified offence to be entitled to bail only after expiration of a period of 60 days from date of charge.	2
67.	2	Bail (Amendment) Bill	To affect a delay or deferral in the consideration of bail for 60 days and place the onus on the accused to show cause why he should be granted bail.	2
68.	3	Charter of Rights and Freedoms (Constitutional Amendment) Bill	To amend Chapter 3 of Constitution to provide for a Charter of Rights and Freedom.	2
69.	4	Constabulary Force (Interim Provisions for Arrest and Detention) Bill	To allow for the Police to detain persons without charge for up to 72 hours.	2
70.	5	Corruption Prevention (Special Prosecutor) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To repeal the Corruption (Prevention) Act and the Parliament (Integrity of Members) Act; and to provide for the establishment of the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Corruption as a Commission of Parliament. • To create an offence for the filing of late statutory declaration; to empower Commission to request information from certain Government departments and agencies, including the revenue services, banks, financial institutions, building societies, co-operative societies and registered Accountants; for statutory declarations to be filed on 31st day of December in each year or at such other intervals as the Commission may direct; to update the fine imposed under section 6 (2). 	2
71.	6	Jury (Amendment) Bill (No.2)	To provide for majority verdict of the jury to be accepted in cases of murder where the sentencing options do not include the death penalty.	2
72.	7	Offences Against the Person's (Amendment) Bill	To provide for Minimum custodial sentence for a person convicted before Circuit Court of the offences of shooting with intent to do grievous bodily harm and wounding with intent, with the use of a firearm.	2
73.	8	Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill (No.1)	To provide for mandatory continuing legal education and to provide for intervention by the General Legal Council in the practice of an Attorney-at-Law.	4
74.	9	Constitutional Amendments	To provide for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Terms of Limits for Prime Minister (Two Consecutive Terms) II. Removal of Power from the Prime Minister to call elections. III. Establishing fixed election dates. 	5

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MINISTRY OF JUSTICE				
75.	10	Coroner's (Amendment) Bill (No.2)	Introduction to Court reporters.	5
76.	11	Evidence (Amendment) Bill (No.1)	To provide for admissibility of evidence in Criminal and Civil proceedings by way of television links and video link; Removal of certain procedural requirements to the admissibility of computer generated evidence in proceedings generally.	5
77.	12	Judicature (Supreme Court) (Admiralty Jurisdiction) Bill	To repeal and replace the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890 (UK), the Administration of Justice Act. 1956 and the Admiral Jurisdiction (Jamaica) Order in Council, 1962 which collectively govern the admiralty jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in Jamaica.	5
78.	13	Judicature (Supreme Court) (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the recording proceedings of by Official Court Reporters.	5
79.	14	Judicature (Resident Magistrates) (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the recording of proceedings in the Resident Magistrates Court by Official Court Reporters.	5
80.	15	Obscene Publications (Amendment) Bill	To increase fines and custodial sentences (Modernise Legislation).	5
81.	16	Whistleblower Bill	To provide enabling legislation to protect individuals who report corrupt practices and activities.	5
82.	17	Libel and Defamation Laws	To modernize the laws relating to libel and defamation.	
MINISTRY OF TOURISM				
83.	1	Hotel (Incentives) Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide clarity in definitions given to some aspects of the Act. • To request 'approved building plans' instead of 'certified drawings'. • To encourage investors to purchase, items included under Second Schedule of HIA, locally. • To give the Minister the authority to amend the Second Schedule of the HIA. 	5
84.	2	Travel Agency Regulation (Amendment) Bill	To increase the penalties that may be imposed on a person who is convicted for breaching any of the provisions of the Travel Agency Regulation Act (1956).	7

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MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT & WORKS				
85.	1	Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill (No. 2)	To establish Island Traffic Authority as a statutory body.	3
86.	2	Transport Authority (Collection of Fees) (Validation and Indemnity) Bill	Validation of the Collection of Fees	4
87.	3	Jamaica Railway Corporation Amendment Bill	To harmonise act with provisions of OUR Act; to make provisions for privatisation of railway operations	5
88.	4	Jamaica Railway Privatization Bill	To make provisions for a Jamaica Railway Corporation Fund.	5
89.	5	Port Authority of Jamaica Bill	Repeal and replace existing Act, to ensure that the legislation relating to the Authority was in keeping with the Shipping Act, 1998. To bring several Acts relating to maritime activities and port operations, repeal a number of existing Acts, viz, the Harbour Fees Act, the Harbour Lights and Lighthouse Act and the Port Authority Act. Address the weakness in power and functions of the Port Authority of Jamaica.	5
90.	6	Public Passenger KMTR (Amendment) Bill Public Passenger Rural Areas (Amendment) Bill Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill	To consolidate the Public Passenger (KMTR) Act and Public Passenger (Rural Areas) Act to remove duplication. The Transport Authority Act to include all provisions relating to public transport vehicles which were removed from the Road Traffic Act consequent on its amendment; Transport Authority Act to be consistent with Road Traffic Act re monitoring and regulatory functions for public passenger vehicles. Consequential amendments to be made to any other Act to effect changes to Road Traffic Act and Regulations.	5
91.	7	Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill (No. 1)	To provide for comprehensive revision of Act ; To repeal and replace the current Road Traffic Act and Regulations (1938) and Companion Acts and Regulations	5
92.	8	Shipping (Pollution and Control) Bill [Marine Pollution]	To implement for several international conventions (including International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Damage; International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness & Response Cooperation (ICOPP & R); Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) to protect shipping & preserve the marine environment from pollution by ships.	5
93.	9	Transport Services Economic Regulation Bill	To implement a new legislative regime where the powers to set rates, fares and tariffs in the public passenger sector are vested in OUR	5

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MINISTRY OF WATER & HOUSING				
94.	1	Water Resources (Amendment) Bill Flood Water Control (Amendment) Bill	To rationalise responsibility for Flood Water Control between WRA and MTW; repeal Flood Control Water Act	4
95.	2	Rent Restriction (Change of Name & Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the provision of adequate legislation governing the rental of properties in Jamaica and to bring about greater efficiency in the processing of applications & complaints	5
96.	3	Water Supply and Sewerage Service Bill	To provide the framework for multiple service providers in the water sector through a licensing regime, and to establish the appropriate institutional framework, responsibilities and roles of the various players in the water sector consistent with the Policy.	5
MINISTRY OF YOUTH, SPORTS & CULTURE				
97.	1	National Library of Jamaica (NLJ) Bill Institute of Jamaica (Amendment) Bill	To give full autonomy to the National Library of Jamaica	3
98.	2	Entertainment Industry (Encouragement) Bill Motion Picture (Encouragement) (Amendment) Bill	To provide incentives to approved entertainment operators similar to those proposed for the motion picture producers	5
CABINET OFFICE				
		NO ITEMS READY AT THIS TIME		
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER				
99.	1	National Solid Waste Authority (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to increase the number of Board Members from 11 to 13 by the inclusion of two (2) representatives of the Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica.	4
100.	2	Negril Green Island Area Local Planning Authority (NGIALPA) (Validation and Indemnity) Bill	To assist in the proper setting up of the NGIALPA as a Planning Authority and to exempt it from any legal action that might be taken against it from 1981. This is necessary as there is no evidence to indicate that the Authority was properly set up from its inception as a Planning Authority.	4
101.	3	Bio-Safety Bill	To put in place a regulatory system for the safe management of Genetically Modified Organisms.	5
102.	4	Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill	To revamp the legislation to bring in line with the present approaches to regulation of the film distribution and exhibition industry and to provide necessary statutory guidelines.	5

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OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER				
103.	5	Crown Property (Vesting) (Amendment) Bill	(i) To establish a National Divestment Committee to advise Minister of Land and Environment; (ii) To provide for the Minister making an Order to exempt certain categories of divestment being routed through the Committee.	5
104.	6	Disaster Management & Mitigation Bill	To provide for a strengthened legislative framework for disaster management (To replace ODPEM Act)	5
105.	7	Ozone Layer Protection Bill	To provide for phase-out of importation of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and to bring together existing orders & regulations concerning controls of ODS	5
106.	8	Postal Services Bill [Post Office (Repeal) Bill]	(i) To repeal the Post Office Act; (ii) Facilitate modernisation & commercialisation of post offices by transferring the Postal Corporation into a statutory body, Jamaica Post.	5
107.	9	Bauxite (Production Levy) (Amendment) Bill	To regulate the legal status of the Capital Development Fund, making it a statutory body.	7
108.	10	Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to increase the maximum number of Board members to fourteen (14); the appointment of a representative of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, the Jamaica Defence Force and the Jamaica Fire Brigade as members.	7
109.	11	National Building Bill	To improve the efficiency of the building approval process and provide a framework for the effective management of the building industry. (To incorporate the Kingston and St. Andrew Building Act and the Parish Council Building Act).	7

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