

GOJ PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2018/2019

TABLED IN PARLIAMENT				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
1.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Tax Collection (Amendment) Bill; Property Tax (Amendment) Bill; Land Valuation (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Acts to assist in maximising property tax revenue and facilitate the legitimate recognition of the part played by Local Government in the administration of property taxes.
2.		Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	Protection of Geographical Indications Bill	To provide the level of protection for other goods and products as currently granted to wines and spirits.
3.		Ministry of Justice	Child Diversion Bill	To make provision for diversionary measures regarding children found to be in conflict with the law.
4.		Ministry of Justice	Indictments (Amendment) Bill	To enable the trial of "joinable offences" that are founded on the same facts, or arose out of a single act, on a single indictment; and enable the Courts to undertake an assessment of damages suffered by a victim, with a view to ordering that the convicted offender make restitution for therefor.
5.		Ministry of Justice	Justice of the Peace (Courts of Petty Sessions) Bill	To strengthen the regime governing Justices of the Peace in Jamaica.
6.		Ministry of Justice	Trafficking in Persons (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Trafficking in Persons Act to allow for judge only trials.
7.		Ministry of Labour and Social Security	Occupational Safety and Health Bill	To provide for the establishment of safety and health standards for places in which economic activity is undertaken.
8.		Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Human Services Bill	To repeal and replace the Poor Relief Act and to make new provisions for the abolition of the Board of Supervision, and to transfer its functions to the Ministry with responsibility for local government; and to modernise the legislation.
9.		Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Local Governance (Amendment) Bill	To provide for how boundaries of a City Municipality are to be altered, that Councillors elected to a City Municipality shall not sit on the Municipal Corporation of that parish, and related matters.
10.		Ministry of National Security	Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency Bill	To provide for the establishment of the Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) as a Government Agency dedicated to combating serious crime.
11.		Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology	Data Protection Bill	To implement a regime to protect the privacy of individuals in relation to personal data and regulate the collection, processing, keeping, use and disclosure of information relating to individuals.
12.		Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology	Telecommunications (Spectrum Regulatory Fees) (Validation and Indemnification) Bill	To validate and indemnify actions of the Spectrum Management Authority in charging regulatory fees in a manner not prescribed for the period April 2004 to March 2016.
13.		Ministry of Transport and Mining	Ballast Water Management Bill	To incorporate the provisions of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004 (The Ballast Water Management Convention).
14.		Ministry of Transport and Mining	Road Traffic Bill	To repeal the existing Road Traffic Act and replace it with a new Act that is in keeping with international best practices for the road safety adopted for local conditions.
15.		Ministry of Transport and Mining	Transport Authority (Collection of Fees) (Validation and Indemnity) Bill	To validate and confirm the fees collected in good faith by the Transport Authority during the period 1 December 1989 to the commencement of the legislation.

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APPROVED BY CABINET FOR TABLING

No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
16.	1	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Trusts Bill	To create a system for estate planning, business succession, investment vehicles, heirship and marital asset planning.
17.	2	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Public Procurement (Amendment) Bill	To establish an Offsets Public Procurement Policy Framework to foster greater inclusion and participation in public procurement opportunities.
18.	3	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	Fishing Industry Bill	To repeal and replace the existing Act for the better management of the fishing industry

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BEFORE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
19.	1	Ministry of Health	Optometry Bill	To amend the Act so as to modernize and properly regulate the practice of Optometrists.

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BILL BEING DRAFTED				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
20.	1	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill	To change the name of the Act to the "Rent Act" to reflect the purpose of the legislation to regulate all aspects of the rental industry; and to effect other amendments to the Act.
21.	2	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information	Jamaica Teaching Council Bill	To provide for the establishment of the Jamaica Teaching Council and for the introduction of a system of teacher licensing.
22.	3	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Credit Union (Special Provisions) Bill	To bring Credit Unions under Bank of Jamaica supervision as deposit taking institutions.
23.	4	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	Biological, Chemical and Toxin Weapons Conventions and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540	To implement the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention, the biological weapons and chemical weapons related measures of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and related Strategic Trade Controls, in particular, weapons of mass destruction.
24.	5	Ministry of Health	Nurses and Midwives (Amendment) Bill	To make provision for the regulation, control and monitoring of all categories of Nurse Practitioners as it regards prescription rights and matters concerned.
25.	6	Ministry of Health	Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill	To make provisions for the regulation of Pharmacy Technicians, the authorization of the prescribing of specified drugs by Nurses Practitioners, reconstitution of the Pharmacy Council, and reclassification of List 2 Drugs.
26.	7	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	Animals (Diseases and Importation) (Change of Name and Amendment) Bill	To facilitate importation, distribution, storage etc. of animals and animal products and by-products with regard to disease and safety.
27.	8	Ministry of Industry, Commerce Agriculture and Fisheries	Companies (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen the efficient operation of companies in Jamaica.
28.	9	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	Patents and Design Bill	To replace and repeal Patents Act and the Design Act; fulfil all the provisions of the Trade-Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and the USA/Jamaica Bilateral Treaty on Intellectual Property; and bring Act into conformity with international standards of protection for inventors and innovators.
29.	10	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	Minimum Wage (Amendment) Bill Employment Agencies Regulation	To facilitate compliance with the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (C189), which Jamaica has already ratified.
30.	11	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	National Solid Waste Management (Amendment) Bill	To validate all the actions of the NSWMA with respect to the contributions to the MPM Plan; and to empower the Minister to give retroactive approval to NSWMA to join the MPM Pension Plan.
31.	12	Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology	Petroleum (Downstream Activities) Bill	To consolidate and supplement the relevant aspects of downstream related activities in the Petroleum industry.
32.	13	Ministry of Tourism	Tourism Workers Pension Scheme Bill	To establish a defined contribution pension scheme for tourism workers.
33.	14	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to strengthen the provisions in keeping with Jamaica's continued compliance with the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention, 1944).

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34.	15	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Maritime Labour Convention Bill	To give effect to the Maritime Labour Convention; and to amend related laws to provide for the right of seafarers to decent living and working standards on ships as well as the right to medical, care, repatriation, and social protection.
35.	16	Office of the Cabinet	Electricity (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to include clauses that govern the operating protocols and constitution of the Generation Procurement Entity (GPE).

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DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
36.	1	Office of the Prime Minister	National Housing Trust (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the National Housing Trust to revise its loan interest rates and to provide a subsidy/home grant not exceeding \$1.5 M; to facilitate ease of home ownership for contributors to the Trust.

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CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS

No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
37.	1	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Professional Engineers Registration (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to address issues relating to registration, annual practicing certificates and prescribed fees, penalties under the Act and continuing professional education for engineers.
38.	2	Ministry of National Security	Firearms (Amendment) Bill	To address deficiencies hindering the Firearm Licensing Authority in the execution of their duties; and to satisfy Jamaica's international obligations, as well as to provide for the revision of the protocols supporting the current firearm review process; and to introduce new offences.
39.	3	Ministry of Tourism	Tourist Board (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act in order to transfer the licensing function from the Jamaica Tourist Board to the Ministry of Tourism.