

GOJ PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2018/2019 at Christmas Recess (December 2018)

PASSED BY PARLIAMENT				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
1.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Public Procurement (Amendment) Act, 2018	To establish an Offsets Public Procurement Policy Framework to foster greater inclusion and participation in public procurement opportunities.
2.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Financial Institutions (Vesting of Assets in Pan Caribbean Merchant Bank Limited) (Order, 2000) (Validation) Act, 2018	To validate and confirm as lawful the vesting of assets in Pan Caribbean Merchant Bank Limited pursuant to the Financial Institutions (Vesting of Assets in Pan Caribbean Merchant Bank Limited) Order 2000, dated 6 June 2000.
3.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 2018	To make permanent the removal of the exemption previously provided for general insurance companies, insurance brokers and agents, from the 15% withholding tax on outgoing insurance premiums in the circumstances specified in the Act.
4.		Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	The Fisheries Act, 2018	To repeal and replace existing Act for the better management of the fishing industry
5.		Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	The Protection of Geographical Indications Act, 2018	To provide the same level of protection for other goods and products as currently granted to wines and spirits.
6.		Ministry of Justice	The Child Diversion Act, 2018	To make provision for diversionary measures regarding children found to be in conflict with the law
7.		Ministry of Justice	The Justice of the Peace Renaming Courts of Petty Sessions Act, 2018	To strengthen the regime governing Justices of the Peace in Jamaica.
8.		Ministry of National Security	The Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency Act, 2018	To provide for the establishment of a statutory law enforcement Agency to be known as “the Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency”. The Agency will have operational independence and authority and be dedicated to combating serious crimes, in collaboration with other local and foreign law enforcement agencies and strategic partners.
9.		Ministry of Science, and Technology	Telecommunications (Spectrum Regulatory Fees) (Validation and Indemnification) Act, 2018	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.
10.		Ministry of Transport and Mining	Road Traffic Act, 2018	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.
11.		Ministry of Transport and Mining	Transport Authority (Collection of Fees) (Validation and Indemnity) Act, 2018	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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TABLED IN PARLIAMENT				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
12.	1.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Trusts Bill	To create a system for, inter alia, estate planning, business succession, investment vehicles, heirship and marital asset planning.
13.	2.	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.
14.	3.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Bank of Jamaica; Banking Services; Public Bodies and Accountability (Amendment) Bill	To establish a new Bank of Jamaica Governance Regulations.
15.	4.	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen enforcement mechanisms and modernise the legislation in keeping with advancements in technology and other changes.
16.	5.	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	Protection of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the integration of certain functions of the Management Authority into the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries as a part of the Public Sector Rationalisation Plan.
17.	6.	Ministry of Justice	Gun Court Amendment Bill	To provide for non-capital murder offences committed with a firearm to be tried by the Circuit Court Division of the Gun Court by a judge without a sitting jury.
18.	7.	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	Occupational Safety and Health Bill	To provide for the establishment of safety and health standards for all places in which economic activity is undertaken
19.	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 under the Act, and to transfer its functions to the Ministry with responsibility for local government; and to modernise the legislation.
20.	9.	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Local Governance (Amendment) Bill	To provide for how boundaries of a City Municipality were to be altered, that Councillors elected to a City Municipality shall not sit on the Municipal Corporation of that parish, and related matters.
21.	10.	Ministry of Science, 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.
22.	11.	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).

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APPROVED BY CABINET FOR TABLING				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
23.	1.	Ministry of Justice	Law Reform (Amendment of Penalties) Bill	To amend several Acts under the portfolio of the Ministry of Justice in order to increase outdated penalties, and empower the Minister to amend penalties, where necessary, by Order subject to affirmative resolution

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BEING CONSIDERED/APPROVED BY LEGISLATION COMMITTEE				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
24.	1.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Bauxite and Alumina Industries (Encouragement) (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to allow “recognized bauxite producers” to import fuel oil (except petrol) without the payment of import duties.
25.	2.	Ministry of Health	Optometry Bill	Amendments to the Act to modernize and properly regulate the practice of Optometrists.
26.	3.	Office of the Prime Minister	Compulsory Acquisition (Shares held by PDV Caribe SA in Petrojam Limited) Bill	To give effect to the decision for the compulsory acquisition of the 49% shares held by PDV Caribe SA in Petrojam Limited.

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BEING DRAFTED				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
27.	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.
28.	2.	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information	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.
29.	3.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Credit Union (Special Provisions) Bill	To bring Credit Unions under BOJ supervision as deposit taking institutions.
30.	4.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Micro-Credit Bill	To strengthen the legislative framework for money lending institutions and money service businesses.
31.	5.	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
32.	6.	Ministry of Health	Nurses and Midwives Bill	To make provision for the regulation, control and monitoring of all categories of Nurse Practitioners as it regards prescription rights and matters concerned.
33.	7.	Ministry of Health	Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill (and Consequent Changes to the Nurses and Midwives Act)	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.
34.	8.	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 & safety.
35.	9.	Ministry of Industry, Commerce Agriculture and Fisheries	Companies (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen the efficient operation of companies in Jamaica.
36.	10.	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.
37.	11.	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	Minimum Wage (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate compliance with the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (C189), which Jamaica has already ratified.
38.	12.	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.
39.	13.	Ministry of Tourism	Tourism Workers Pension Scheme Bill	To establish a defined contribution pension scheme for tourism workers.
40.	14.	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill	To comprehensively review 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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41.	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.
42.	16.	Office of the Cabinet	Electricity (Amendment) Bill	Amendments to the Act include clauses that govern the operating protocols and constitution of the Generation Procurement Entity (GPE).
43.	17.	Office of the Prime Minister	Petroleum (Downstream Activities) Bill	This Act and the attendant Regulations will consolidate and supplement the relevant aspects of downstream related activities in the following legislation: (i) Petroleum Oil Fuel (Landing and Storage) Act, 1925; (ii) Petroleum (Quality Control) Act, 1990; (iii) The Oil Fuel (Landing and Storage) Regulations, 1941; (iv) The Petroleum (Landing and Storage) Rules, 1941; (v) The Petroleum (Quality Control) Regulations, 1990.

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DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
44.	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
45.	1.	Ministry of Culture Gender Entertainment and Sport	Prevention of Sexual Harassment Bill	To highlight the nature of the offensive conduct, establish the liability of the offending party, and to outline the liability of accommodating parties
46.	2.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Professional Engineers Registration (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Professional Engineers Registration Act (PERA) to address issues relating to registration, annual practicing certificates and prescribed fees, penalties under the Act and continuing professional education for engineers.
47.	3.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Registration (Strata Titles); Real Estate (Dealers and Developers); Timeshare Vacations (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the merger of the Real Estate Board, Commission of Strata Corporations and the Timeshare Registrar into the Real Estate Authority of Jamaica
48.	4.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Customs (Amendment) Bill	The modernize the Act to support the reforms in customs administration.
49.	5.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Resolution for Financial Institutions (Special Resolution Regime) Bill	To establish a special resolution regime for the orderly resolution of distressed financial institutions in order to protect financial stability whilst minimizing the recourse to public funds.
50.	6.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Income Tax (Amendment)(Validation and Indemnity) Bill	To validate the collection of tax from 1 July 2016 and ending on the commencement date of the amendments; and to indemnify from all liability, the Government and all those persons who acted in good faith on behalf of the Government in collecting tax from 1 July 2016 and ending on the commencement date of the amendments.
51.	7.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Financial Institutions Resolution Bill	To provide for the modified insolvency (specialized insolvency) framework which will be a part of the special resolution regime for financial institutions.
52.	8.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Financial Services Commission (Amendment) Bill and consequential amendments to other enactments	To provide for the amendment of the Financial Services Commission Act and for consequential amendments to the Pensions (Superannuation Funds and Retirement Schemes) Act, Insurance Act, and Securities Act, to facilitate group-wide supervision
53.	9.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	United Nations Security Resolutions Implementation (Amendment) Bill	To address legislative gaps identified in Jamaica's Mutual Evaluation Report as well as address provisions in the legislation which required clarification.
54.	10.	Ministry of Health	Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (Implementation) Bill	To expedite GOJ compliance with its commitments under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
55.	11.	Ministry of National Security	Amendments to the Firearms (Amendment) Bill and its Subsidiary Legislation	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.
56.	12.	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.

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