

GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2019/2020 (STATUS AT END OF THE LEGISLATIVE YEAR)

PASSED BY PARLIAMENT				
	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
1.		Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	The Trusts Act, 2019	To provide for the establishment and operation of trust services in Jamaica in relation to both Jamaica and foreign trusts.
2.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Bauxite and Alumina Industries (Encouragement) (Amendment) Act, 2019	To allow "recognized bauxite producers" to import fuel oil (except petrol) without the payment of import duties.
3.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 2019	To provide for an increase in the personal income tax threshold; to provide for an initial allowance on capital expenditure in respect of the purchase for renovation of industrial buildings; to give permanent effect to matters previously effected provisionally; and for connected matters.
4.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Minimum Business Tax (Repeal) Act, 2019	To repeal the Act; and entitle specified taxpayers who have paid the minimum business tax for the assessment period beginning on the 1 st day of January 2019, to a reimbursement of such sums paid.
5.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The National Contracts Commission (Validation and Indemnity) Act, 2019	To validate and confirm as lawful, the actions of the Commission in relation to the registration and classification of prospective contractors, and to indemnify the Commission and all other persons from liability in relation to such actions.
6.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Petroleum (Amendment) Act, 2019	To repeal an amendment (Part IIIA) made in 2006 to establish the PetroCaribe Development Fund to manage the proceeds that accrued to Jamaica under the PetroCaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
7.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Transfer Tax (Amendment) Act, 2019	To amend the Act to make permanent the reduction in transfer tax previously effected by the Provisional Collection of Tax (Transfer Tax) Order, 2019, payable on the transfer of property o increase economic and business activity in the real estate market, to increase property development and access to credit markets and generally, to promote economic growth and job creation; and by increasing the transfer tax threshold applicable to the estates of deceased persons to facilitate the transfer of wealth by succession to the next generation, enabling beneficiaries to acquire valuable assets which enable participation in economic opportunities.

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	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
	8.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	Terrorism Prevention (Amendment) Bill	To enable Jamaica to address inefficiencies identified in the 2015 Mutual Evaluation Report conducted by the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force.
	9.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and foreign Trade	The United Nations Security Council Resolutions Implementation (Amendment) Act, 2019	To amend the Act in order to ensure that Jamaica is in compliance with its International Obligations under the Charter of the United Nations; and to the strengthen the domestic framework for combating the financing of terrorism and to fight against terrorism.
	10.	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	The Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation (Amendment) Act, 2019	To strengthen the existing legislation in order to ensure the safety and wholesomeness of food, in light of developments in the relevant industries; and modernize the legislation in keeping with the advancement in technologies and other changes.
	11.	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	The Patents and Designs Act, 2020	To fulfil Jamaica's obligations as a party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the Patent Cooperation Treaty and will reflect the requirements of the Agreement on the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property and the Bilateral Agreement between Jamaica and the United States of America.
	12.	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	The Protection of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Amendment) Act, 2019	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.
	13.	Ministry of Justice	The Law Reform (Amendment of Penalties) Act, 2019	To amend several Acts under the portfolio of the Ministry of Justice to increase outdated penalties, and empower the Minister to amend penalties, where necessary, by Order subject to affirmative resolution.
	14.	Ministry of National Security	The Noise Abatement (Temporary Amendment) Act, 2019	To provide an interim solution to issues identified in the enforcement of the Act and to amend the Act to facilitate the holding of entertainment activities from the date of commencement of the amendment until the 31 st day of January, 2020, by two hours, the period within which those activities may be carried on without being presumed to amount to a nuisance.
	15.	Ministry of National Security	The Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Act, 2019	To provide for measures to address the lack of compliance with the Financial Action Task Force Recommendations regarding money laundering and related activities.

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	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
16.		Ministry of Science and Technology	The Information and Communications Technology Authority Act, 2019	To establish a body to be called the Information and Communications Technology Authority; to bring the entire ICT function of the GOJ under one roof by transferring the functions of eGov Jamaica Limited and the Office of the Chief Information Officer to the new Authority.
17.		Ministry of Tourism	The Tourism Workers Pension Act, 2019	To establish a define contribution pension scheme for tourism workers.
18.		Office of the Prime Minister	The Human Employment and Resource Training (Amendment) Act, 2019	To merge the functions of HEART with the National Youth Service and the Apprenticeship Board, and to repeal the Apprenticeship Act and the National Youth Service Act and connected matters.

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TABLED IN PARLIAMENT				
	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
19.	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.
20.	2	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Bank of Jamaica (Amendment) Bill; Banking Services Bill; Public Bodies and Accountability (Amendment) Bill	To establish new Bank of Jamaica Governance Regulations.
21.	3	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Customs Bill	To repeal and replace the Customs Act to facilitate the comprehensive review and modernization of the Act to support the reforms in customs administration.
22.	4	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	General Consumption Tax (Amendment) Bill	To reintroduce voluntary registration of persons who do not meet the General Consumption Tax threshold and would like the option to be registered as a registered taxpayer.
23.	5	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Micro-Credit Bill	To strengthen the legislative framework for money lending institutions and money service businesses.
24.	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.
25.	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.
26.	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.
27.	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, and that Councillors elected to a City Municipality shall not sit on the Municipal Corporation of that parish.
28.	10	Ministry of Science and Technology	Data Protection Bill	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.

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BEING CONSIDERED/APPROVED BY LEGISLATION COMMITTEE				
	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
29.	1	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Optometry Bill	To modernize and properly regulate the practice of Optometrists.
30.	2	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.

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BEING DRAFTED				
	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
31.	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.
32.	2	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Registration of Titles Cadastral Mapping and Tenure Clarification (Special Provisions) Bill; Registration of Titles Bill	To facilitate the merger of the National Land Agency and the Land Administration Management Programme.
33.	3	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.
34.	4	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.
35.	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.
36.	6	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the effective regulation of Natural Health products, including nutraceuticals.
37.	7	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (Implementation) Bill	To expedite compliance with commitments under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
38.	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 and safety.
39.	9	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	Companies (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen the efficient operation of companies in Jamaica.
40.	10	Ministry of Industry, Commerce Agriculture and Fisheries	Plants (Quarantine) Bill	To give effect to the decision to accept the 1997 revision of the International Plant Protection Convention and the necessary amendments to the Plants (Quarantine) Act.
41.	11	Ministry of Industry, Commerce Agriculture and Fisheries	Trade Mark (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the implementation of the Madrid Protocol which allows for a system of International registration of trademarks and service marks.

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	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
42.	12	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	National Insurance Bill	To provide for increase in contributions and benefits payable under the Act and for connected matters.
43.	13	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.
44.	14	Ministry of National Security	Firearms (Amendment) Bill	To address deficiencies hindering the Firearm Licensing Authority in the execution of their duties; and to provide for the revision of the protocols supporting the current firearm review process; and to introduce new offences.
45.	15	Ministry of National Security	Immigration Restriction (Commonwealth Citizen) (Amendment) Bill; and Aliens (Amendment) Bill	To amend the immigration laws to address current and emerging border security issues.
46.	16	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).
47.	17	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.
48.	18	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Shipping (Pollution Prevention, Response, Liability and Compensation) Bill	To incorporate the provisions of MARPOL 73/78; to allow for recovery compensation in the event of an oil spill and contribution by importers of oil to the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund.
49.	19	Office of the Prime Minister	Registration (Births and Deaths) (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Registration (Births and Deaths) Act to treat with the registration forms and procedures for the mandatory registration of the particulars of fathers.

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CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
50.	1	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Real Estate (Developers and Dealers) (Amendment) Bill	To modernize the provisions of the existing Act.
51.	2	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the date of implementation of the removal of additional stamp duty from goods originating in the European Community to be 1 April 2019 in accordance with the CARIFORUM-EC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).
52.	3	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Casino Gaming (Amendment) Bill	To redefine the requirements for investments in Integrated Resort Developments.
53.	4	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Gaming Bill	To facilitate the merger of the Betting Gaming and Lotteries Commission, the Jamaica Racing Commission and the Casino Gaming Commission.
54.	5	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Independent Fiscal Council Bill	To establish an Independent Fiscal Institution to promote sound fiscal policy and sustainable public finances.
55.	6	Ministry of Health and Wellness	National Family Planning (Repeal) Bill.	To facilitate the integration of the National Family Planning Board as a division in the Ministry of Health and Wellness.
56.	7	Ministry of Industry, Commerce Agriculture and Fisheries	Tobacco Industry Regulation (Repeal) Bill	To give effect to the decision to close the Tobacco Industry Control Authority.
57.	8	Ministry of Justice	Dogs (Liability for Injury) (Repeal) Bill	To repeal and replace the Act to provide for criminal and civil liability for the owner of a dog that attacks, injures or causes the death of a person.
58.	9	Ministry of Justice	Legal Aid (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the integration of the functions of the Legal Aid Council into the Ministry of Justice.
59.	10	Ministry of Science and Technology	Petroleum (Downstream Activities) Bill	To consolidate and supplement all existing downstream legislation and to amend the Office of Utilities Regulation Act to provide the Office with jurisdiction in respect of the regulation of the downstream natural gas sector in Jamaica, including the facilities and services for Liquefied Natural Gas, compressed natural gas and other forms of natural gas.
60.	11	Ministry of Tourism	Tourist Board (Amendment) Bill; repeal of the River Rafting Act	To amend the Act to transfer the licensing function from the Tourist Board to Ministry of Tourism.

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	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
61.	12	Ministry of Tourism	Bath of St. Thomas the Apostle (Amendment) Bill; Milk River (Amendment) Bill	To pursue a long-term development lease as the divestment modality for the Bath Fountain Hotel and Spa and the Milk River Hotel and Spa.
62.	13	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the implementation of recent policy changes to reflect the current trends and to address indiscipline and corruption in the public passenger transport sector.