

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2020/2021 (as at end of Parliamentary Term)**

<b>PASSED BY PARLIAMENT</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>NAME OF LEGISLATION</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
1.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Appropriation Act, 2020	To provide the authority for expenditure (other than statutory expenditure) for the financial year 2020/2021.
2.		Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	The Registration of Titles (Amendment) Act, 2020	To amend the Act to: (a) implement an adjudication-centric and driven process for proving the ownership of land; (b) separate the process of planning and subdivision approval from the issuing of titles; and (c) provide that where boundaries are adjudicated upon and pursuant to a systematic registration process are deemed to be acquiesced notwithstanding any enactment to the contrary and provided the parties do not object to same.
3.		Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	The Registration of Titles Cadastral Mapping and Tenure Clarification (Special Provisions) (Amendment) Act, 2020	To amend the Act to: (a) implement an adjudication-centric and driven process for proving the ownership of land; (b) separate the process of planning and subdivision approval for the issuing of titles under the Registration of Cadastral Mapping and Tenure Clarification (Special Provisions) Act; and (c) provide for the full operations for the Land Administration and Management Programme processes, including the adjudication processes to fall under the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer of the National Land Agency.
4.		Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Act, 2020	To amend part 11 of the Third Schedule of the Act to reflect the change in portfolio responsibility from the Minister responsible for industry to the Minister responsible for Economic Growth and Job Creation.
5.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Bank of Jamaica (Amendment) Act, 2020	To amend the Act and make consequential amendments to the Banking Services Act and the Public Bodies Management and Accountability Act in an effort to strengthen the governance structure of the Bank and to provide for its modernisation, in keeping with international best practices.
6.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Act, 2020	Resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, to amend the Act to include among the conditions that trigger suspension of fiscal rules– (a) the declaration of a disaster area or threatened area under section 26 of the Disaster Risk Management Act; and (b) the making of an order under section 16 of the Public Health Act.
7.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 2020	To amend the Act to lengthen the time period allotted for gradual economic recovery and to include measures to enable the maintenance of a trajectory towards the achievement of a debt to GDP ratio of 60% by the new target date.
8.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 2020	As part of a set of revenue measures to be implemented for the 2020/2021 fiscal year, to amend the Act to implement a corporate income tax credit of three hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars for bodies corporate with annual revenues or sales less than or equal to five hundred million dollars in the year of assessment.

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9.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Independent Fiscal Council Act, 2021	To establish an Independent Fiscal Institution to promote sound fiscal policy and sustainable public finances.
10.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Micro-Credit Act, 2021	To strengthen the legislative framework for money lending institutions and money service businesses.
11.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The National Housing Trust (Amendment) (Special Provisions) Act, 2020	To amend the Act to provide for the continuation of annual transfers not exceeding \$11.4 billion from the National Housing Trust to the central government in support of its fiscal consolidation programme over the period 2021/2022 through 2025/2026 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on financial resources.
12.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Revenue Administration (Amendment) Act, 2020	To implement the - (a) Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters, the latest international convention signed by Jamaica to improve international tax compliance by enabling the exchange of financial and other tax information among the State parties to the Convention, and (b) Standard for Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information in Tax Matters developed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), to create a single platform for the administration of the automatic exchange of tax information under the Convention.
13.		Ministry of Justice	The Dogs (Liability for Attacks) Act, 2020	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.
14.		Ministry of Justice	The Authentication (Foreign Public Documents) Act, 2020	To facilitate Jamaica's implementation of The Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for Foreign Public Documents done at the Hague on 5 October, 1961 ("the Apostille Convention") which establishes a reciprocal regime among Contracting States for the mutual recognition of foreign public documents authenticated by an Apostille certificate which certifies the authenticity of any signature, the capacity of the person signing and the identity of any seal or stamp appearing on the foreign public document.
15.		Ministry of Justice	The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2021	To amend the Act to give better legal effect to, and improve upon, the 1996 Practice Directions issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions in relation to the custody of seized drugs by providing for the secure storage of drugs seized under the Act, allowing for such drugs to be destroyed, and, where such drugs are required as evidence, allowing samples and images of the drugs to be taken before the drugs are destroyed, to be received in evidence and to have the same probative force as the drugs would have if proved in the ordinary way.
16.		Ministry of Justice	The Evidence (Amendment) Act, 2020	To amend the Act to provide that where a thing is seized as evidence, a sample or image of the thing may be taken by or under the direction of a constable, received in evidence and accorded the same probative force as the thing would have if proved in the ordinary way.

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17.		Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development	The Representation of the People (Postponement of Elections to Municipal Corporations and City Municipalities) Act, 2020	To temporarily modify the Act in order to postpone the holding of a general election of members to serve on the respective councils of Municipal Corporations and mayors of City Municipalities due to the impact of the SARS-COV-2 virus, the risk of exposure of the electorate to the virus, and current financial constraints.
18.		Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology	The Data Protection Act, 2020	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.
19.		Ministry of Transport and Mining	The Shipping (Amendment) Act, 2020	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.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2020/2021 (as at end of Parliamentary Term)**

<b>TABLED IN PARLIAMENT</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>NAME OF LEGISLATION</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
20.	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.
21.	2.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Limited Liability Companies Bill	To provide for the establishment of Limited Liability Companies in Jamaica.
22.	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.
23.	4.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (Implementation) Bill	To expedite compliance with commitments under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
24.	5.	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	National Insurance (Validation, Indemnification and Amendment) Bill	To provide for increase in contributions and benefits payable under the Act; validate and confirm the payment of certain benefits made in good faith by persons acting on behalf of the National Insurance Fund, and the collection of contributions done in good faith; indemnify certain persons in respect of those payments and contributions; and provide for connected matters.
25.	6.	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.	7.	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development	Human Services Bill	To repeal and replace the Poor Relief Act; to abolish the Board of Supervision and transfer its functions to the Ministry with responsibility for local government; and to modernise the legislation.
27.	8.	Office of the Prime Minister	National Identification and Registration Bill	To introduce a National Identification Card and National Identification Number as well as the establishment of the National Identification and Registration Authority.
28.	9.	Office of the Prime Minister	Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill	This amend the Act to enable the holding of local government elections at the same time as a general election, in instances where the timing for each respective election, in keeping with legal requirements, falls within one hundred and twenty days of the other, is envisaged to result in significant cost savings to Jamaica, as well as administrative convenience.

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<b>APPROVED FOR TABLING IN PARLIAMENT</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>NAME OF LEGISLATION</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
29.	1.	Ministry of Local Government and Rural 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.

<b>BEING CONSIDERED/APPROVED BY LEGISLATION COMMITTEE</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>NAME OF LEGISLATION</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
30.	1.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Optometry Bill	To modernize and properly regulate the practice of Optometrists.
31.	2.	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Agro-Investment Corporation (Amendment) Bill	To merge the functions of the Agricultural Marketing Corporation (AMC) and the Agro-Investment Corporation (AIC); as well as to establish mechanisms to improve and expand the functioning of the AIC.
32.	3.	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.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2020/2021 (as at end of Parliamentary Term)**

<b>BEING DRAFTED</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>NAME OF LEGISLATION</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
33.	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.
34.	2.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Segregated Accounts Companies Bill	To provide for the establishment of segregated accounts companies in Jamaica.
35.	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.
36.	4.	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information	Jamaica Tertiary Commission Bill	To modernise and strengthen the legal and regulatory framework for the higher education sector in Jamaica, including making provision for the registration of higher education providers, the establishment of a National Qualifications Framework, the restructuring of institutional arrangements to support the sector and consequential amendments and for related matters.
37.	5.	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information	Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica (Validation and Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to empower the Council to confer academic awards and to validate and indemnify the Council in respect of past actions in making such awards.
38.	6.	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.
39.	7.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Pensions (Superannuation Funds and Retirement Schemes) (Amendment) Bill	Regulation of Private Pension Scheme for vesting, indexation, and portability. This is the second phase of private sector pensions reform.
40.	8.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Revenue Administration Bill	To enhance the effectiveness of and strengthen the enforcement capabilities of the Revenue Protection Division.
41.	9.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Insurance Bill	To facilitate the creation of the legislative framework for micro-insurance and to support the microcredit industry.
42.	10.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Credit Union (Special Provisions) Bill	To facilitate the supervision of credit unions by the Bank of Jamaica.
43.	11.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Public Accountancy Bill	To improve and strengthen the effectiveness of the accountancy profession.
44.	12.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the integration of the Audit Commission into the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.
45.	13.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Financial Services Commissions (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the development of the regime for consolidated supervision of non-deposit taking institutions (non-DTIs) groups.

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<b>BEING DRAFTED</b>				
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46.	14.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the effective regulation of natural health products, including nutraceuticals.
47.	15.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Companies (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen the efficient operation of companies in Jamaica.
48.	16.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	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.
49.	17.	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.
50.	18.	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development	National Solid Waste Management (Amendment) Bill	To validate all the actions of the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) with respect to the contributions to the Metropolitan Parks and Markets (MPM) Pension Plan; and to empower the Minister to give retroactive approval to NSWMA to join the MPM Pension Plan.
51.	19.	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.
52.	20.	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.
53.	21.	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).
54.	22.	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.
55.	23.	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.
56.	24.	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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<b>CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>NAME OF LEGISLATION</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
57.	1.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Forest (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the effective implementation of the Protected Areas System Master Plan 2013-2017.
58.	2.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Professional Engineers Registration (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to address issues relating to registration, annual practising certificated and prescribed fees and penalties.
59.	3.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Registration of Titles (Amendment) Bill; Registration of (Strata Titles) (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the implementation of an electronic system of Land Title Registration.
60.	4.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Banking Services (Amendment) Bill	To establish a consumer protection framework for deposit taking institutions.
61.	5.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Casino Gaming (Amendment) Bill	To redefine the requirements for investments in Integrated Resort Developments.
62.	6.	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.
63.	7.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	General Consumption Tax (Amendment) Bill	To amend the First Schedule Group 19 of The General Consumption Tax (GCT) Act to include a provision for the payment of GCT on the purchase of prepaid electricity service for residential customers for private and domestic use, beyond 150 kilowatt hours within a specific month or payment cycle.
64.	8.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	General Consumption Tax (Validation, Indemnification and Amendment) Bill	To: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. amend the General Consumption Tax Act and the General Consumption Tax Regulations, 1991 to give permanent effect to the reduction in the standard rate of General Consumption Tax from 16.5% to 15%;</li> <li>ii. enact of legislation to validate the Provisional Collection of Tax (General Consumption Tax) Order, 2020 which purported to make amendments to the General Consumption Tax Act and the General Consumption Tax Regulations, 1991 by varying the rate of tax under the Act and the Regulations; and</li> <li>iii. the enactment of legislation to indemnify the Government and its agents against any liability arising from any acts done pursuant to the lapsed Provisional Collection of Tax (General Consumption Tax) Order, 2020.</li> </ul>
65.	9.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	International Corporate and Trust Services Providers Bill	To include domestic corporate and trust services providers under the regulatory regime of the Financial Services Commission.
66.	10.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to: replace the list of prescribed goods and their corresponding Additional Stamp Duty (ASD) rates with an alternate list of goods and the New ASD rates.



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<b>CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>NAME OF LEGISLATION</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
67.	11.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Urban Renewal (Tax Relief) (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the expansion of the powers of the Minister in certain circumstances to grant approval of tax incentives.
68.	12.	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.
69.	13.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Copyright (Amendment) Bill	To enable greater access to books and other copyright works by blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled persons in Jamaica.
70.	14.	Ministry of Justice	Independent Commission of Investigations (Validation) (Amendment) Bill	To validate of the actions of the Commissioner and staff of the Independent Commission of Investigations (INDECOM) and indemnify the Commissioner and staff of INDECOM for actions done in good faith in the course of their duties; and the amendment of the Act to enable INDECOM to properly carry out its mandate.
71.	15.	Ministry of Justice	Notaries Public Bill	To repeal and replace the current Act.
72.	16.	Ministry of National Security	Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Organizations) (Amendment) Bill	To implement the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee that reviewed the Act.
73.	17.	Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology	Electricity (Amendment) Bill	To address issues with respect to the governance structure of the GER under the Act and to validate the actions of the members, officers and staff of the Board of Examiners and the Government Electrical Inspectorate, and the actions of all other persons in support of such actions in licensing electricians and inspecting electrical installations and indemnifying them against all legal proceedings of any kind in respect of or consequent on those actions.
74.	18.	Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology	Petroleum (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the integration of the core functions of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ) into a newly created Division of the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology.
75.	19.	Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology	Petroleum (Downstream Activities) Bill	To consolidate and supplement the relevant aspect of all existing downstream legislation and to provide the Office of Utilities Regulation with jurisdiction in respect of the regulation of the downstream natural gas sector in Jamaica.
76.	20.	Ministry of Tourism	Tourist Board (Amendment) Bill; River Rafting (Repeal) Bill	To amend the Act in order to transfer the licensing function from the Tourist Board to Ministry of Tourism.
77.	21.	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.
78.	22.	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill	To incorporate modified version of provisions now included in the Public Passenger Transport (Kingston Metropolitan Transport Region) Act, 1947 and the Public Passenger Transport (Rural Area) Act, 1970, and to repeal the Acts.