GOJ PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2026/2027
(as at Summer Recess, 31 August 2026)

PASSED			
No.	**MINISTRY**	**NAME OF LEGISLATION**	**PURPOSE**
1.	*Office of the Cabinet*	*The National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority Act, 2026*	*To enable the National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority (NaRRA) to require that decision-making processes for planning, environmental, construction and other required approvals be expedited, and to modify or disapply such processes where necessary to facilitate timely project delivery; and incorporate a framework for economic resilience and strategic investment facilitation through the Facilitated Acceleration of Strategic Transformation (FAST) framework, within the Authority's existing statutory architecture.*
2.	*Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining*	*The Conch (Export Levy) (Amendment) Act 2026*	*To empower the Minister, by order subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Representatives, to prescribe the period during which an exporter may pay the levy on conch and extend that period; and the manner in which the levy on conch shall be paid, whether in full or in instalments. Also to empower the Minister to waive, reduce or remit the levy on conch under specific circumstance; and amend the constitution of the Board established under section 10 of the Act.*
3.	*Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining*	*The Jamaica Dairy Development Board (Amendment) Act, 2026*	*To expand the definition of milk to include milk from ruminants and not to restrict the definition to solely milk from cows, which would be in alignment with international standards and practices; and to specify the composition of the Jamaica Diary Development Board to comply with the legal requirements under the Public Bodies Management and Accountability (Nomination, Selection and Appointment of the Boards) Regulations, 2021.*
4.	*Ministry of Energy, Transport and Telecommunications*	*The Civil Aviation (Amendment) Act , 2026*	*To amend the Act to ensure its provisions are effective and in keeping with changes in the civil aviation sector and to ensure Jamaica's continued compliance with the Convention on International Aviation, 1944 (Chicago Convention).*
5.	*Ministry of Finance and the Public Service*	*The Appropriations Act, 2026*	*To provide authority for expenditure (other than statutory expenditure) for the financial year 2026/2027 and specify the manner in which that expenditure is to be allocated to the various Heads of Expenditure specified in the Schedule to the Bill. The Bill also provides for the number of receipts, which may be utilized as appropriations-in-aid in relations to the Heads of Expenditure.*
6.	*Ministry of Finance and the Public Service*	*The Assets Tax (Specified Bodies) (Amendment) Act, 2026*	*To amend the Act to change the date for the filing of the annual declaration of the value of assets and payment of assets tax to April 15.*
7.	*Ministry of Finance and the Public Service*	*The Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 2026*	*To amend the Act and the Income Tax (Employments) Regulations to facilitate a relief-support regime that allows for a non-taxable treatment of disaster relief honorarium made by employers to employees who have suffered the ill effect of Hurricane Melissa. In addition, the Bill seeks to amend the Act to change the annual income tax filing and payment date for corporate income tax, from March 15 to April 15 with effect from the 2025 year of assessment.*
8.	*Ministry of Finance and the Public Service*	*The National Housing Trust (Amendment) (Special Provisions) Act, 2026*	*To amend section 4(1A) of the Act for the continuation of the Annual Transfer of $11.4 billion from the National Housing Trust to the Central Government for an additional five years, for financial years 2026/2027 to 2030/2031.*
9.	*Ministry of Finance and the Public Service*	*The Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Act, 2026*	*To remove the cap of $10 billion on the amount that could be held in the National Disaster Reserve Fund (NNDRF); and cease mandatory annual transfers from the Consolidated Fund into the NNDRF once the balance in the NNDRF reached the amount of $10 billion.*

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(as at Summer Recess, 31 August 2026)

PASSED			
No.	**MINISTRY**	**NAME OF LEGISLATION**	**PURPOSE**
10.	*Ministry of Finance and the Public Service*	*The Financial Investigations Division (Amendment) Act, 2025*	*To ensure the operational independence and autonomy of the Financial Investigations Division and related matters.*
11.	*Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs*	*The Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) (Amendment) Act, 2026*	*To: among other things, delete reference to the Dangerous Drugs Act in the Third Schedule of the Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act; empower the Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Board ("the Board") to consider applications for expungement of offences for which the sentence imposed was greater than five years but less than ten years; and automatically expunge convictions for which non-custodial sentences were given and completed prior to 1 January 2005.*
12.	*Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs*	*The Jury (Amendment) Act, 2026*	*To adjust the framework governing the payment made to persons summoned to participate in the jury selection and trial by jury process for criminal and civil matters in Jamaica.*
13.	*Office of the Prime Minister*	*The Cybercrimes (Amendment) Act, 2026*	*To amend the Act in keeping with recommendations made by a Joint Select Committee (JSC) of Parliament, established to review the Act, and approved by the Houses of Parliament.*

BEFORE PARLIAMENT			
No.	**MINISTRY**	**NAME OF LEGISLATION**	**PURPOSE**
14.	*Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development*	*Registration (Shared Communities) Bill*	*To establish a legal framework for the ownership of common or shared areas, outline the roles and responsibilities of the parties pursuant to the legal framework, and determine the administrative framework.*
15.	*Ministry of Tourism*	*Jamaica Tourist Board Bill*	*To repeal and replace the Tourist Board Act and facilitate the repeal of the River Rafting Authority Act.*
16.	*Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs*	*Mediation Bill*	*To establish a regulatory framework for the conduct of mediation in Jamaica.*
17.	*Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce*	*Jamaica Consumer and Competition Authority Bill*	*To merge the functions of the Fair-Trading Commission and the Consumer Affairs Commission and vest these functions in a new entity, the Jamaica Consumer and Competition Authority.*

APPROVED BY CABINET FOR TABLING			
No.	**MINISTRY**	**NAME OF LEGISLATION**	**PURPOSE**
18.	*Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information*	*Jamaica Teaching Council Bill*	*To formalize and advance teaching as a profession; to contribute to improving the quality of teaching and learning in Jamaica by regulating the entry and standing of members of the teaching profession; to establish and maintain the registers of teachers and the Roll of Instructors; to establish and maintain professional standards for teacher*

APPROVED BY CABINET FOR TABLING			
No.	**MINISTRY**	**NAME OF LEGISLATION**	**PURPOSE**
			competence and practice; to regulate the professional conduct of teachers to ensure, in the interest of the students and in the general public interest, that teachers are fit and proper persons to teach; to create an enabling environment for the continuing professional development of teachers; and for those purposes to establish a body to be called the Jamaica Teaching Council; and to provide for connected matters.
19.	*Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce*	*Jamaica Promotions Corporation (Amendment) Bill*	*To validate all acts done in relation to the issuance of special licences subsequent to the repeal of the Motion Picture (Encouragement) Act, effective 1 January 2014.*
20.	*Ministry of Local Government and Community Development*	*National Solid Waste (Validation and Indemnification) Bill*	*To validate and confirm the deductions of contributions from employees of the Authority and the payment of these contributions to the MPM Waste Management Limited Pension Plan.*
21.	*Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs*	*Jury (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill*	*To be reintroduced in the Houses of Parliament to provide for a mechanism of continuation of trials in the absence of a jury in instances of jury tampering.*

BEING CONSIDERED/APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE			
No.	**MINISTRY**	**NAME OF LEGISLATION**	**PURPOSE**
22.	*Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce*	*Companies (Amendment) Bill*	*To amend section 157 of the Act to remove the requirement for the entire Auditor's Report to be read before the company in general meetings.*
23.	*Ministry of Finance and the Public Service*	*Environmental Protection Levy Bill*	*To implement an environmental protection levy on imported and locally manufactured goods. The environmental protection levy is aimed at mitigating the negative impact on the environment arising from the consumption, use, and disposal of imported and locally manufactured goods.*
24.	*Ministry of Finance and the Public Service*	*Virtual Asset Service Providers Bill*	*To establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for virtual assets and virtual asset service providers in Jamica. It introduces mandatory licensing, supervision, enforcement powers and compliance obligations consistent with the Financial Action Task Force standards for Anti-Money Laundering, Counter Terrorism Financing, and Counter Proliferation Financing.*
25.	*Ministry of Labour and Social Security*	*National Insurance (Validation, Indemnification and Amendment) Bill*	*To validate and confirm as lawful the acts of the Minister and every person acting on behalf of the National Insurance Fund in relation to the payments of benefits in increased amounts or based on increased rates without those benefits and rates having been prescribed; and* amend *the Act, the National Insurance (General Benefit) Regulations, 1966, and the National Insurance (Sugar Workers Transitional) Regulations,1966, to prescribe the increased benefits with effect from 1 April 2023.*

BILL BEING DRAFTED			
No.	**MINISTRY**	**NAME OF LEGISLATION**	**PURPOSE**
26.	*Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining*	*Plant Health Bill*	*To repeal the present Plants (Quarantine) Act and replace it with legislation in line with modern phytosanitary best practices and Jamaica's international obligations under the International Plant Protection Convention.*
27.	*Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development*	*Real Estate (Dealers and Developers) (Amendment) Bill*	*To bring all real estate professionals under the ambit of the Act, increase compliance with its provisions, address existing gaps and reduce the potential for the real estate sector to be used as a conduit for money laundering and terrorism financing.*
28.	*Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development*	*Harbours (Amendment) Bill*	*To amend the Act in order to define the Authority referred to in the Act as the Port Authority.*
29.	*Ministry of Energy, Transport and Telecommunications*	*Petroleum (Downstream Activities) Bill*	*To consolidate 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.*
30.	*Ministry of Health and Wellness*	*Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill*	*To allow for the effective regulation of Natural Health Products, including nutraceuticals.*
31.	*Ministry of Health and Wellness*	*Nurses and Midwives (Amendment) Bill*	*To allow for the regulation of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.*
32.	*Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce*	*Partnership (General) Bill*	*To create more business options for entrepreneurs and facilitate the ease of doing business within Jamaica.*
33.	*Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs*	*Legal Aid (Amendment) Bill*	*To integrate the Legal Aid Council as a department of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.*
34.	*Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs*	*Notaries Public (Repeal and Replacement) Bill*	*To repeal and replace the Notaries Public Act and to enact a new Act which will provide for the appointment, functions and jurisdiction of Notaries Public and the setting of tariff fees for notarial services.*
35.	*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.*
36.	*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.*
37.	*Ministry of Local Government and Community Development*	*Human Services Bill*	*To repeal and replace the Poor Relief Act. Additionally, it seeks to abolish the Board of Supervision, transfer its functions to the Ministry with responsibility for local government and introduce new concepts reflective of a modern human services approach to poor relief.*
38.	*Ministry of Local Government and Community Development*	*National Solid Waste Management (Amendment) Bill*	*To increase the maximum consecutive years an appointed member may serve on the Authority, from six consecutive years to nine consecutive years. The opportunity is also being taken to amend certain provisions relating to offences and fixed penalties for greater clarity and accuracy.*
39.	*Ministry of National Security and Peace*	*Aliens (Amendment) Bill*	*To harmonize the provisions of the legislation in accordance with international standards and address current immigration and other emerging border security issues.*

BILL BEING DRAFTED			
No.	**MINISTRY**	**NAME OF LEGISLATION**	**PURPOSE**
40.	*Ministry of National Security and Peace*	*Firearms (Prohibition, Restriction and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill*	*To streamline the penalties for specific offences and strengthen the sentence reduction scheme for guilty pleas to incentivise the provision of assistance to the prosecution.*
41.	*Ministry of National Security and Peace*	*Immigration Restriction (Commonwealth Citizens) Bill*	*To harmonise the provisions of the legislation in accordance with international standards and address current immigration and other emerging border security issues.*
42.	*Ministry of Tourism*	*Travel Agencies Regulation (Amendment) Bill*	*To amend the Act to reflect changes in the tourism sector between 1956 and the present.*
43.	*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.*
44.	*Ministry of Water, Environment and Climate Change*	*Forest Bill*	*To repeal and replace the Forest Act, 1966 to provide for, among other things, the streamlining of the functions of the Forestry Department related to forest administration and the expansion of the regulatory function of the Forestry Department, as it relates to forest management and protection.*
45.	*Ministry of Health and Wellness*	*Tobacco Control Bill*	*To enable Jamaica to be in compliance with its international obligations under the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control by making provisions for the restriction of the use of tobacco products and relevant products and the adoption and implementation of tobacco control policies.*

DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED			
No.	**MINISTRY**	**NAME OF LEGISLATION**	**PURPOSE**
46.	*Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development*	*Registration of Titles (Amendment) Bill*	*To implement an electronic system of land registration.*

GOJ PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2026/2027
(as at Summer Recess, 31 August 2026)

CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS			
No.	**MINISTRY**	**NAME OF LEGISLATION**	**PURPOSE**
47.	*Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport*	*Jamaica National Heritage Trust (Amendment) Bill*	*To amend the Act to incorporate UNESCO cultural Conventions ratified by Jamaica associated with world heritage, underwater and intangible cultural heritage and the prevention of illicit trading of cultural objects and to address the inconsistencies in the treatment of National Monuments and Protected National Heritage; outdated fines prescribed for breaches of the Act; expand cultural resource management and regulatory tools; inadequate powers and enforcement capabilities of the Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT); and align provisions with international . Conventions and accepted standards and address financial incentives.*
48.	*Ministry of Labour and Social Security*	*National Insurance (Amendment) Bill*	*To provide for an unemployment benefit under the Act.*
49.	*Ministry of Energy, Transport and Telecommunications*	*Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill*	*To amend the Act in accordance with section 47(1) of the Telecommunications Act; and correct an error in the Act.*
50.	*Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce*	*Insolvency (Amendment) Bill*	*To improve the implementation of the legislative framework for insolvency and facilitate compliance with international best practice.*
51.	*Ministry of Finance and the Public Service*	*Casino Gaming (Amendment) Bill*	*To allow the Minister with portfolio responsibility for finance to make an Order with retrospective effect to lower the amount for the minimum capital investment within the range of US450 million.*
52.	*Ministry of Finance and the Public Service*	*General Consumption Tax (Amendment) Bill*	*To implement a Special Consumption Tax on non-alcoholic sweetened beverages to a rate of $0.22 per gram of added sweetener.*
53.	*Ministry of Finance and the Public Service*	*Tax Collection (Amendment) Bill*	*To facilitate an amendment to the Tax Collection Act to remove the seven-year limitation for collection of property tax.*
54.	*Ministry of Finance and the Public Service*	*Public Bodies Management and Accountability (Amendment) Bill*	*To facilitate the extension of the current 8% contingency ceiling for user pays public-private partnerships to 1 March 2030.*