

GOJ PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2021/2022 – as at the end of the legislative year Recess (4 February 2022)

PASSED BY PARLIAMENT				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
1.		Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	The Agro-Investment Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2021	To merge the functions of the Agricultural Marketing Corporation (AMC) and the Agro-Investment Corporation (AIC) and establish mechanisms to improve and expand the functioning of the AIC.
2.		Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	The Tobacco Industry Regulation (Validation and Indemnity) (Repeal) Act, 2021	To validate and confirm all acts in relation to the winding-up of the Tobacco Industry Control Authority done in good faith and inadvertent as to the absence of statutory authority; indemnify persons against liability arising out of their carrying out of such acts; and repeal the Tobacco Industry Regulation Act; and for connected matters.
3.		Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport	The Sexual Harassment (Protection and Prevention) Act, 2021	To highlight the nature of the offensive conduct which constitutes sexual harassment and prohibit certain related conduct, establish the liability of the offending party, and to outline the liability of accommodating parties.
4.		Ministry of Education, and Youth	The Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica (Amendment, Validation and Indemnity) Act, 2021	To amend the Act to explicitly empower the Council to grant or confer academic awards and distinctions; to validate and confirm as lawful the actions of the Council in granting or conferring, in good faith, degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic awards and distinctions; to validate and confirm as lawful the awards and distinctions so granted and conferred during the period January 1, 1993, to the date of commencement of this legislation; to provide indemnification in respect thereof; and for connected matters.
5.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Casino Gaming (Amendment) Act, 2021	To amend the Act to stipulate certain requirements in relation to the development and operations of approved integrated resort development.
6.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The International Corporate and Trust Services Providers (Change of Name and Amendment) Act, 2021	To amend the International Corporate and Trust Services Providers Act to regulate domestic trust service providers and domestic corporate service providers; to change the name of the Act to reflect this amendment
7.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Urban Renewal (Tax Relief) (Amendment) Act, 2021	To amend the Act to ensure that the period during which a person may benefit from tax relief or any exemption from the payment of tax under the Act in respect of improvement works in a special development area does not exceed the incentive period for that area, and clarify the respective portfolio responsibilities of the relevant Ministers.
8.		Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	The Companies (Amendment) Act, 2021	To allow for companies to navigate holding Annual General Meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
9.		Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	The Trade Marks (Amendment) Act, 2021	To allow for the implementation of the Madrid Protocol which allows for a system of International registration of trademarks and service marks.
10.		Ministry of Justice	The Emergency Powers (Amendment) Act, 2021	To amend the Emergency Powers Act and the Emergency (Public Security) Act to bring them into conformity with amendments made to the Constitution of Jamaica in 2011.
11.		Ministry of Justice	The Extradition (Amendment) Act, 2021	To amend the Act to provide for the admission of evidence that would not otherwise be admissible under Jamaican law in the form of records of evidence of the case in extradition hearings and to empower any Parish Court Judge to issue an arrest warrant for a person accused of an extraditable offence, irrespective of the parish in which the person is thought to be located.
12.		Ministry of Justice	The Judicature (Parish Courts) (Amendment) Act, 2021; The Judicature (Appellate Jurisdiction) (Amendment) Act, 2021.	To grant a limited right of appeal to the Prosecution
13.		Ministry of Justice	The Justices of the Peace (Amendment) Act, 2021	To amend the Act to allow a Justice of the Peace who resides, or has his or her principal place of work, in Kingston or St Andrew to be appointed as a Justice for either parish.
14.		Ministry of Justice	The Legal Aid (Fees) (Validation and Indemnification) Act, 2021	To validate the payment of fees in good faith under the varied tariff and to indemnify persons liable to be proceeded against in respect of those payments.
15.		Ministry of Labour and Social Security	The National Insurance (Validation, Indemnification and Amendment) Act, 2021	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.
16.		Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development	The Disaster Risk Management (Amendment) Act	To strengthen the provisions of the Act in order to combat any conceivable calamitous event in the wake of the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 (Coronavirus COVID-19).
17.		Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development	The Representation of the People (Postponement of Elections to Municipal Corporations and City Municipalities) Act, 2022	To provide for the postponement of the Elections to Municipal Corporations and City Municipalities

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18.		Ministry of National Security	The Corrections (Amendment) Act, 2021	To support security arrangements and controls within correctional centres as it relates to prohibited articles, including the express prohibition of computers and electronic communications devices, and the provision of commensurate and more sufficiently deterrent penalties.
19.		Ministry of National Security	The Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Organizations) (Amendment) Act, 2021	To specify additional offences in which criminal organizations are engaged in order to fund their activities; to expand the list of aggravating factors to be considered when sentencing an individual convicted of certain offences under the Act and to improve the trial procedure in order to protect the identity of witnesses; and for connected matters.
20.		Ministry of National Security	The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) (Amendment) Act, 2021	To create an anti-human trafficking regime that deters offenders and accords with the recommendations in the United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report.
21.		Ministry of Transport and Mining	The Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 2021	To give effect to a decision to amend the Road Traffic Act in order to increase the quantum of fixed penalties for offences under the Act
22.		Office of the Prime Minister	The National Identification and Registration Act, 2021	To introduce a National Identification Card and National Identification Number as well as the establishment of the National Identification and Registration Authority.

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APPROVED FOR TABLING IN PARLIAMENT				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
23.	1.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Pensions (Jamaica Constabulary Force) (Validation and Indemnity) Bill	To validate the approval granted by the Governor-General for the early retirement of officers from the Jamaica Constabulary Force; and indemnify the Government and all persons acting on behalf of the Government from liability in relation to facilitating the approval process over the period 13 February 2019 and 13 August 2019; and for connected matters.

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BEING CONSIDERED/APPROVED BY LEGISLATION COMMITTEE				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
24.	1.	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.
25.	2	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Transport Authority (Amendment) Bill	To incorporate a 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 those Acts.

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DRAFT BILL BEING REVIEWED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
26.	1.	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Agricultural Produce (Amendment) Act	To strengthen and modernise the Act for the purpose of effectively regulating the trade and movement of agricultural produce.
27.	2.	Ministry of Culture Gender Entertainment and Sport	Domestic Violence Bill	To amend the legislation to provide greater protection against the occurrence of domestic violence.
28.	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.
29.	4.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Special Economic Zones (Validation and Indemnification) Bill	To transition of existing Free Zone entities to Special Economic Zones.
30.	5.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to comply with Jamaica's international obligation to implement Action 5 of the base erosion and profit sharing minimum standards and other matters.
31.	6.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	National Council on Drug Abuse (Repeal) Bill Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill	To repeal the Act to facilitate the integration of the National Council on Drug Abuse as a department into the Ministry of Health and Wellness.
32.	7.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Real Estate (Developers and Dealers) (Amendment and Change of Name) Bill	To modernize the Act and give effect to the merger of the Real Estate Board, Commission of Strata Corporations, and the Timeshare Registrar into the Real Estate Authority of Jamaica.
33.	8.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Companies (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen the efficient operation of companies in Jamaica.
34.	9.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Bill	To bring the act into conformity with the WTO Anti-dumping Agreement.
35.	10.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	National Compliance and Regulatory Authority Bill	To establish a body which will perform regulatory functions previously performed by the Bureau of Standards Jamaica.
36.	11.	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.	12.	Ministry of National	Firearms (Repeal and Replacement) Bill	To address deficiencies hindering the Firearm Licensing Authority in the execution of their duties;

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DRAFT BILL BEING REVIEWED				
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		Security		and to provide for the revision of the protocols supporting the current firearm review process; and to introduce new offences.
38.	13.	Ministry of National Security	Immigration Restriction (Commonwealth Citizen) (Amendment) Bill; Aliens (Amendment) Bill	To amend the immigration laws to address current and emerging border security issues.
39.	14.	Ministry of Science and Technology	Electricity (Amendment, Indemnification and Validation) Bill	To address issues with the governance structure of the GER and 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 actions in licensing electricians and inspecting electrical installations and indemnifying them against all legal proceedings.
40.	15.	Ministry of Science 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.
41.	16.	Ministry of Science and Technology	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.
42.	17.	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.
43.	18.	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).
44.	19.	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.

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BEING DRAFTED/DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
45.	1.	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	National Irrigation (Validation and Indemnification) Bill	To validate all acts executed in good faith by the NIC, as the Irrigation Authority, in the absence of the requisite licence pursuant to section 4 of the Irrigation Act, for the period commencing 11 July 2021 to the date of gazetting of a new order to duly license the NIC; and indemnify the NIC and its officers against any liability that may be incurred as a result of NIC operating as the Irrigation Authority, in good faith, but without the requisite licence, during the relevant period.
46.	2.	Office of the Prime Minister	National Archives and Records Management Bill	To repeal and replace the Archives Act, 1983 and all subsidiary legislation.
47.	3.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Forest (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to address current deficiencies in the legislation as well as the requirements set out in the Forest Policy of Jamaica (2017) and the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan 2016-2026.
48.	4.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Bank of Jamaica (Amendment) Bill	To amend the BOJ Act to allow for the issuance of the Central Bank Digital Currency

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CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
49.	1.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Bank of Jamaica (Amendment) Bill; Banking Services (Amendment) Bill	To address the allowable levels of equity holdings of authorized officers of the Bank of Jamaica.
50.	2.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Tax Collection (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act and any other relevant revenue law to provide for the collection of foreign tax debts of treaty partners as if they were a Jamaican tax debt and provide for the collection of local tax debt by treaty partners.
51.	3.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Income Tax Relief (Large Scale Projects and Pioneer Industries) (Amendment) Bill	To create a coherent and self-contained legislative framework for the granting of fiscal incentives
52.	4.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Registration (Communities with Shared Facilities) Bill	To govern communities with shared real estate and facilities that do not qualify as Strata communities under the Registration (Strata Titles) Act.
53.	5.	Ministry of Tourism	Tourist Board (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act in order to transfer the licensing function from the Tourist Board to Ministry of Tourism and repeal the River Rafting Act.