

GOJ PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2022/2023 – at start of the legislative year (submitted by Ministries)

BEFORE PARLIAMENT				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
1.		Ministry of Education and Youth	Jamaica Teaching Council Bill	To recognise and promote 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 register of teachers and the Roll of Instructors; to establish and maintain professional standards for teacher competence and practice; to regulate the professional conduct of teachers to ensure, in the public interest, that teachers are fit and proper persons to teach; to create an enabling environment for the continuing professional development of teachers; to establish the Jamaica Teaching Council for the aforementioned purposes; and for connected matters.
2.		Ministry of National Security	Firearms (Repeal and Replacement) 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.

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BEING CONSIDERED/APPROVED BY LEGISLATION COMMITTEE				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
3.	1.	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.
4.	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
5.	1.	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Agricultural Produce (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen and modernise the Act for the purpose of effectively regulating the trade and movement of agricultural produce.
6.	2.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Rent Restriction (Change of Name and 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.
7.	3.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Income Tax Relief (Large-Scale Projects and Pioneer Industries) Bill and Regulations	To create a coherent and self-contained legislative framework for the granting of fiscal incentives in respect of large scale projects qualifying for treatment under the Act.
8.	4.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Pensions (Repeal and Replacement) Bill	To regulate Private Pension Scheme for vesting, indexation and portability, develop adequate levels of pension benefits and foster security of benefits of participants and ensure an effectively regulated pension industry.
9.	5.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Companies (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen the efficient operation of companies in Jamaica.
10.	6.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Insolvency Bill	To simplify the procedures relating to insolvency as well as facilitate compliance with international best practices.
11.	7.	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
12.	8.	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development	National Solid Waste Management (Validation and Indemnification) Bill	To validate and confirm the entry into arrangements by the Authority with MPM Waste Management Ltd regarding pensions for employees of the Authority, the deductions and payment of same to the Plan and indemnify the Authority and every person acting in good faith on behalf of the Authority from liability in this regard.
13.	9.	Ministry of Science and Technology	Law Reform (Amendment of Penalties) Bill	To amend provisions relating to update penalties and monetary obligations in various enactments under the portfolio of the MSET, same having become outdated and ineffective; and for connected matters

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DRAFT BILL BEING REVIEWED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
14.	10.	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.
15.	11.	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.
16.	12.	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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BEING DRAFTED/DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
17.	1.	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Plant Health Bill	To repeal the Plants (Quarantine) Act and replace it with legislation that is comprehensive and consistent with modern phytosanitary best practices and Jamaica's international obligations under the International Plant Protection Convention.
18.	2.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Resolution for Financial Institutions 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.
19.	3.	Ministry of Justice	Notaries Public Bill	To repeal and replace the Act to allow for the appointment, functions and jurisdiction of Notaries Public, an official seal, and setting the tariff fees for notarial services and for connected matters.
20.	4.	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.
21.	5.	Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs	Bail (Repeal and Replacement) Bill	To address the grant of bail in a holistic way encompassing, and by so doing, clarifying the grant of bail before charge, after charge and after conviction; more appropriately, address the peculiarities of the Jamaican society; and set out the scheme for bail in clear language to avoid, doubt and unintended consequences from loose or imprecise language.
22.	6.	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development	Human Services Bill	To abolish the Board of Supervision and transfer the functions of the Board to the Ministry with responsibility for Local Government
23.	7.	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development	National Solid Waste (Amendment) Bill	To provide for members of the National Solid Waste Management Authority Board to be eligible to serve for a maximum of nine (9) consecutive years.
24.	8.	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.
25.	9.	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Shipping (Pollution Prevention, Response, Liability and Compensation) Bill	To incorporate the provisions of MARPOL 73/78; and 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
26.	10.	Office of the Prime Minister	National Housing Trust Bill	To make new provisions in respect of National Housing Trust contributions and related matters such as developing housing schemes for sale to contributors

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CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
27.	1.	Ministry of Justice	Mediation Bill	To establish a regulatory framework for the conduct of mediation in Jamaica.
28.	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).
29.	3.	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.