

GOJ PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2022/2023 – as at the Summer Recess (5 August 2022)

PASSED BY PARLIAMENT				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
1.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Bank of Jamaica (Amendment) Act, 2022	To implement the central bank digital currency (“CBDC”); facilitate the national issuance of the central bank digital currency; and empower the Bank as the sole authority to issue the central bank digital currency as legal tender.
2.		Ministry of Transport and Mining	The Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 2022	To make minor amendments to the Road Traffic Act, 2018, in order to facilitate the accurate implementation of the Road Traffic Regulations.
3.		Ministry of Transport and Mining	The Transport Authority (Amendment) Act, 2022	To incorporate in the Transport Authority Act, the provisions relating to the licensing and regulation of public passenger vehicles, as well as commercial motor vehicles currently regulated under Parts iii and iv of the Road Traffic Act, 1938.

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BEFORE PARLIAMENT				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
4.	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.
5.	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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APPROVED FOR TABLING IN PARLIAMENT				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
6.	1.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Segregated Accounts (Companies) Bill	To provide for the registration and operation of companies that operate and maintain segregated accounts and incorporated segregated accounts.

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BEING CONSIDERED/APPROVED BY LEGISLATION COMMITTEE				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
7.	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.

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DRAFT BILL BEING REVIEWED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
8.	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.
9.	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.
10.	3.	Ministry of Education and Youth	Child Care and Protection (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act in order to abolish the use of Correctional Orders for child non-offenders
11.	4.	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.
12.	5.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Pensions (Superannuation Funds and Retirement Schemes) (Repeal and Replacement) Bill	To repeal and replace the Act in order to proceed effectively with the implementation of the second phase of pension reform to address the matter of vesting and other related matters.
13.	6.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Consumer Protection Tribunal (Validation and Indemnification) Bill	To validate and confirm as lawful, all official acts done by the purported members of the Consumer Protection Tribunal, in good faith and inadvertent as to their being unlawful, during the period commencing on the 28 May 2021, and ending on the 8 May 2022, in the purported exercise of the functions and duties of the Tribunal.
14.	7.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Insolvency Bill	To simplify the procedures relating to insolvency as well as facilitate compliance with international best practices.
15.	8.	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
16.	9.	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.

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17.	10.	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.
18.	11.	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.
19.	12.	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
20.	13.	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.
21.	14.	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.
22.	15.	Ministry of Science and Technology	Law Reform (Amendment of Penalties) Bill	An act to amend provisions relating to update penalties and monetary obligations in various enactments under the portfolio of the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology which are outdated and ineffective; and for connected matters
23.	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.
24.	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.

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DRAFT BILL BEING REVIEWED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
25.	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).
26.	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.
27.	20.	Office of the Prime Minister	National Identification and Registration (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the use of the National Identification card as proof of a licence or permit to drive a motor car.

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BEING DRAFTED/DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
28.	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.
29.	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.
30.	3.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Companies (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen the efficient operation of companies in Jamaica.
31.	4.	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.
32.	5.	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
33.	1.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Port Authority (Amendment) (Validation and Indemnity) Bill	To clarify the role of the PAJ in overseeing major development projects.
34.	2.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Professional Engineers Registration (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to address issues relating to the use of the term 'engineer'; the period of practical experience required; the special registration of engineers; the annual practicing certificates and prescribed fees; the continuing of professional education; the penalties and enforcement; the regulations for continuing professional education for engineers
35.	3.	Ministry of Education and Youth	University Council of Jamaica (Amendment) Bill Overseas Examination (Amendment) Bill	To enact the proposal for the National Council on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NCTVET) to operate under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Youth whilst continuing to carry out functions under the Human Employment and Resource Training/National Service and Training Act (the HEART/NST Act).
36.	4.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	General Consumption Tax (Amendment) Bill	To provide exemption for the importation of lithium-ion batteries with tariff heading 85.076
37.	5.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Companies (Amendment) Bill (No. 2)	To amend the Act to provide for Jamaica's compliance with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force
38.	6.	Ministry of Justice	Mediation Bill	To establish a regulatory framework for the conduct of mediation in Jamaica.
39.	7.	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).
40.	8.	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development	Counties and Parishes (Amendment) Bill	To give effect to the proposal to make Portmore Jamaica's fifteenth parish.
41.	9.	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.
42.	10.	Office of the Prime Minister	National Housing Trust (Amendment) Bill No. 2	To amend the Act to enable contributors who have been unemployed for a continuous 12 months or more, as at 1 July 2021, as a direct result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, to access their contribution refunds in advance.