

APPENDIX 2 - GOJ Legislation Programme 2023-2024 (Status as at Summer Recess – 31 July 2023)

PASSED BY PARLIAMENT				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
1.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Appropriation Act, 2023	To apply for a sum of the consolidated fund to the service of the year ending on 31 March 2024.
2.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Act, 2023	To adjust the wage to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio stipulated in the Act.
3.		Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	The Companies (Amendment) Act, 2023	To amend the Act to provide for Jamaica's compliance with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force
4.		Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	The Consumer Protection (Validation and Indemnity of Tribunal) Act, 2023	To validate and confirm as lawful the purported continuation in office of the members of the Consumer Protection Tribunal and all official acts done by them, in good faith and inadvertent as to their not having been in compliance with the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, during the period 28 May, 2021 to the 8 May, 2022; and to indemnify the members of the Consumer Protection Tribunal and persons who are liable to be proceeded against on the ground that the acts were unauthorized, illegal or improper, from liability in relation thereto; and for connected matters.
5.		Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	The Copyright (Amendment) (Validation and Indemnification) Act, 2023	To repeal and replace section 154 of the Act to provide for a new transitional provision, and to validate and confirm as lawful, the actions of the unregistered copyright licensing bodies from the 1 st day of April 2019 to the date of the commencement of the proposed validating legislation, done in good faith and to indemnify the copyright licensing bodies, the Government of Jamaica and all other persons in relation thereto.
6.		Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	The National Compliance and Regulatory Authority Act, 2023	To establish a body which will perform regulatory functions previously performed by the Bureau of Standards Jamaica
7.		Ministry of Justice	The Constitution (Amendment of Sections 96(1) and 121(1)) Act, 2023	To amend the Constitution of Jamaica to increase the retirement age of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Auditor-General to sixty-five years; and to increase the age to which the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Auditor-General may continue in office after the official retirement age as provided by the Constitution, from sixty-five years to seventy years.

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#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
8.		Ministry of Justice	The Electronic Transaction (Amendment) Act, 2023	To amend the Electronic Transactions Act to facilitate the issuing of electronic warrants and other documents, and the keeping of electronic records, by the courts of Jamaica; and to consequentially amend the Justices of the Peace Jurisdiction Act in respect of the terminology used in reference to the issuing of warrants so that the terminology is compatible with the language used in the Electronic Transactions Act.
9.		Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	The Representation of the People (Postponement of Elections to Municipal Corporations and City Municipalities) Act, 2023	To postpone Local Government elections to a date no later than 28 February 2024

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BEFORE PARLIAMENT				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
10.	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.
11.	2.	Ministry of Education and Youth	Child Care and Protection (Amendment) (No.2) Bill	To repeal section 24 of the Act, which makes provisions (which may include a correctional order) regarding the treatment of a child brought before a court by a parent or guardian who claims to be unable to control the child; provide, instead, for any child alleged to have behavioural challenges to be brought before a Children's Court as being in need of care and protection, among other related matters.
12.	3.	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 (WHO FCTC) by making provisions for the restriction of the use of tobacco products and relevant products (including e-cigarettes and other novel tobacco products) and the adoption and implementation of tobacco control policies in accordance with the WHO FCTC which aims to protect the population from the harmful effects of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke.
13.	4.	Ministry of Justice	Independent Commission of Investigations (Amendment), Bill	To amend the Act to provide for the sharing of information, with specific branches, such as the Director of Public Prosecution, the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Jamaica Defence Force, as a function of the Commission; allow a member of the Security Force authorized by the Commission to serve a summons on a member of the Security Forces or a specified official; expand the provisions relating to delegation under the Act; allow the Commission to initiate or continue an investigation notwithstanding criminal proceedings are under way; and validate and indemnify the disclosure of information in good faith by the Commission, the Commissioner and the employees of the Commission for arrests executed in good faith, and prosecutions initiated or conducted in good faith, during the period July 29, 2010 to March 16, 2028.

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BEFORE PARLIAMENT				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
14.	5.	Ministry of Justice	Offences Against the Person (Amendment) Bill; Criminal Justice (Administration) (Amendment) Bill	To increase the penalty for the offence of murder.
15.	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.
16.	7.	Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs	Bail (Repeal and Replacement) Bill	To address the grant of bail in a holistic way which more appropriately addresses 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.

APPROVED FOR TABLING IN PARLIAMENT				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
17.	1.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) (No.2) Bill	To provide for the integration of the functions of the Audit Commission into the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.
18.	2.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	National Family Planning (Repeal) Bill National Council on Drug Abuse (Repeal) Bill	To repeal the Acts so as to conclude the process of rationalising these two public bodies as part of the Public Sector Transformation Programme. The National Council on Drug Abuse will be integrated within the Ministry of Health and Wellness as a Department of the Ministry, and the National Family Planning Board will be integrated as a Division of the Ministry.

DRAFT BILL BEING REVIEWED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
19.	1.	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining	Agricultural Produce (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen and modernise the Act to effectively regulate the trade and movement of agricultural produce.
20.	2.	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.

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DRAFT BILL BEING REVIEWED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
21.	3.	Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport	Domestic Violence Bill	To amend the legislation to provide greater protection against the occurrence of domestic violence.
22.	4.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	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.
23.	5.	Ministry of Education and Youth	Education (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Education Act to enable the Minister to make regulations to ensure that there is an adequate number of persons trained for appointment as principals, vice principals, heads of department and teachers with special responsibility in public educational institutions (PEIs); with the exception of tertiary institutions (i.e., tertiary-level PEIs) and to amend the Education Regulations, 1980 in relation to the criteria for appointment as principal.
24.	6.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Financial Investigations Division (Amendment) Bill	To ensure the operational independence and autonomy of the Financial Investigations Division and related matters.
25.	7.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the effective regulation of Natural Health Products, including nutraceuticals.
26.	8.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Insolvency (Amendment) Bill	To simplify the procedures relating to insolvency as well as facilitate compliance with international best practices.
27.	9.	Ministry of Justice	Legal Aid (Amendment) Act	To give effect to the decision for the integration of the function of the Legal Aid Council into a Department under the Ministry of Justice, in accordance with the Public Sector Transformation Action Plan.
28.	10.	Ministry of Justice	Notaries Public Bill	To repeal and replace the Notaries Public Act with one with provisions for the appointment of Notaries Public, the functions and jurisdiction of Notaries Public and for connected matters.
29.	11.	Ministry of Local Government and Community 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

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DRAFT BILL BEING REVIEWED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
30.	12.	Ministry of Local Government and Community 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 and to amend certain provisions relating to offences and fixed penalties, for greater accuracy and clarity.
31.	13.	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Counties and Parishes (Amendment) Bill	To give effect to the proposal to make Portmore Jamaica's fifteenth parish.
32.	14.	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.
33.	15.	Ministry of National Security	Law Reform (Zones of Special Operation) (Special Security and Community Development Measures) (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act in keeping with the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee which reviewed same.
34.	16.	Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport	Electricity (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to enable the use of Renewable energy in the replacement of generation capacity that has outlived its useful life; and to expand the definition of "self-generator"
35.	17.	Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport	Law Reform (Amendment of Penalties) Bill	To amend provisions to update penalties and monetary obligations in various enactments under the portfolio of the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology.
36.	18.	Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport	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.
37.	19.	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

BEING DRAFTED/DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
38.	1	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Forest (Amendment) Bill	To address current deficiencies in the legislation as well as the requirements set out in the Forest Policy of Jamaica and the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan.
39.	2.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Port Authority Act Validation and Indemnification Bill	To clarify the duties and powers of the Port Authority; increase fines; and confirm previous decisions and investments of the PAJ.
40.	3.	Ministry of Justice	Mediation Bill	To establish a regulatory framework for the conduct of mediation in Jamaica.
41.	4.	Office of the Prime Minister	National Housing Trust (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to make new provision for National Housing Trust contributions and related matters such as developing housing schemes for sale to contributors

CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
42.	1.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Insurance (Amendment) Bill; Financial Services Commission (Amendment) Bill	To address deficiencies identified in the insurance regulatory framework relating to "significant ownership"; changes in "ownership control"; and the introduction of new International Financial Reporting Standards.
43.	2.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Protection of the Rights of Breeders of New Plant Varieties Bill	To bring Jamaica's regulatory framework for new plant varieties in alignment with requirements under the WTO TRIPS Agreement
44.	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.
45.	4.	Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport	Road Traffic (Reprieve and Nullification of Prescribed Notices) (Amendment) Bill	To clarify provisions to ensure the interpretation of the Act is consistent with the original policy intent.

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CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
46.	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.