

GOJ PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2023/2024 – 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 the Jamaica Teaching Council for the aforementioned purposes; and for connected matters.
2.		Ministry of Health and Wellness	Tobacco Control Bill	To enable Jamaica to be in compliance with its international obligations under the 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.
3.		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
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.
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, and set out the scheme for bail in clear language to avoid, doubt and unintended consequences from loose or imprecise language.

DRAFT BILL BEING REVIEWED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
6.	1.	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining	Agricultural Produce (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen and modernise the Act for the purpose of effectively regulating the trade and movement of agricultural produce.
7.	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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#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
8.	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.
9.	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.
10.	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.
11.	6.	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.	7.	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; and the National Family Planning Board will be integrated as a Division.
13.	8.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the effective regulation of Natural Health Products, including nutraceuticals.
14.	9.	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.
15.	10.	Ministry of Justice	Legal Aid (Amendment) Act	To integrate the functions of the Legal Aid Council into a Department under the Ministry of Justice, in accordance with the Public Sector Transformation Action Plan.
16.	11	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.

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#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
17.	12.	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
18.	13.	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.
19.	14.	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.
20.	15.	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.
21.	16.	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.
22.	17	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"
23.	18	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.
24.	19	Ministry of Science,	Petroleum	To consolidate all existing downstream legislation and to amend the Office of Utilities

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#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
		Energy, Telecommunications and Transport	(Downstream Activities) Bill	Regulation Act to provide the Office with jurisdiction in respect of the regulation of the downstream natural gas sector in Jamaica.
25.	20.	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.

BEING DRAFTED/DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
26.	1.	Ministry of Economic Growth	Forest (Amendment) Bill	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.
27.	2.	Ministry of Economic Growth	Port Authority (Validation and Indemnification) Bill	To clarify the duties and powers of the Port Authority; increase in fines; make amendments to accord with the Public Bodies Management and Accountability Act; and confirm previous decisions and investments of the PAJ.
28.	3.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Companies (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to provide for Jamaica's compliance with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force
29.	4.	Ministry of Justice	Mediation Bill	To establish a regulatory framework for the conduct of mediation in Jamaica.
30.	5.	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

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CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
31.	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).
32.	2.	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.