

GOJ Legislation Programme 2024-2025
(Status as at the end of the legislative year (11 February 2025))

PASSED BY PARLIAMENT				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
1.		Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	The Natural Resources Conservation Authority (Amendment) Act, 2024 The Wild Life Protection (Amendment) Act, 2024	To amend the fines and custodial sentences.
2.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Appropriation Act, 2024	To apply for a sum of the consolidated fund to the service of the year ending on 31 March 2025.
3.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Appropriation (Amendment) Act, 2024	To exclude all expenditures, classified in the 2024/2025 Estimates of Expenditure as statutory and reflected under the relevant Heads of Estimates as Authorized by Law.
4.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Act, 2024	To provide for the establishment of a National Natural Disaster Reserve Fund to address disasters that result in the loss of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the amount of 1.5% or more.
5.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 2024	To provide a tax credit for the purchase and installation of a solar photovoltaic system to individuals for the year of assessment 2023, and any subsequent year.
6.		Ministry of Justice	The Judicature (Rules of Court) (Amendment) Act, 2024	To include the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) as a member of the Rules Committee of the Supreme Court, and for connected matters.
7.		Ministry of Justice	The Maintenance (Amendment) Act, 2024	To allow for a maintenance order to remain in force until a child attains the age of 18 years or until the child attains the age below 23 years, if that child is or will be engaged in a course of education or training after attaining the age of 18 years.
8.		Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs	The Constitution (Amendment of Section 61) Act, 2024	To amend section 61 of the Constitution of Jamaica to provide for new Words of Enactment.
9.		Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport	The Road Traffic (Reprieve and Nullification of Prescribed Notices) (Amendment) Act, 2024	To clarify provisions to ensure the interpretation of the Act is consistent with the original policy intent.
10.		Office of the Prime Minister	The Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2024	To provide an extension of the time limited under paragraph 4(5) of the Eighth Schedule, for the holding of a by-election in the electoral division within the area of jurisdiction of a Municipal Corporation, due to the occurrence of an event that may trigger a postponement of the by-election.

GOJ Legislation Programme 2024-2025
(Status as at the end of the legislative year (11 February 2025))

BEFORE PARLIAMENT				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
11.	1.	Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information	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 the Jamaica Teaching Council; and for connected matters.
12.	2.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Financial Institutions (Resolution and Winding Up) Bill	To establish a framework for the recovery and orderly resolution of non-viable financial institutions and for connected matters.
13.	3.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Income Tax (Amendment No. 2) Bill	To give effect to the Revenue Measures 2024/2025 as outlined in Ministry Paper 11/24 dated 12 March 2024.
14.	4.	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 by making provisions for the restriction of the use of tobacco products and relevant products and the adoption and implementation of tobacco control policies.
15.	5.	Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs	Constitution (Amendment) (Republic of Jamaica) Bill	To establish the Republic of Jamaica and other matters.
16.	6.	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Counties and Parishes (Amendment) Bill	To grant parish status to the Portmore City Municipality.

GOJ Legislation Programme 2024-2025
(Status as at the end of the legislative year (11 February 2025))

APPROVED FOR TABLING				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
17.	1.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Bretton Woods Agreement (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the exemption of the emoluments of specified Jamaican nationals employed to the office of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank) in Jamaica from income tax.
18.	2.	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.
19.	3.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Public Procurement (Amendment) Bill	To create greater efficiencies in public procurement.
20.	4.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Tax Administration Jamaica (Amendment) Bill	To effect amendment of the Act, in respect of the requirements for the appointment to the Advisory Board
21.	5.	Office of the Prime Minister	Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the holding of local government elections at the same time as the holding of a general election.

BEING CONSIDERED BY THE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
22.	1.	Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information	Education (Amendment) Bill	To enable the Minister to make regulations to ensure that there is an adequate number of persons trained for appointment as leaders in public educational institutions and to amend the Education Regulations, 1980 in relation to the criteria for appointment as principal.
23.	2.	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.

GOJ Legislation Programme 2024-2025
(Status as at the end of the legislative year (11 February 2025))

DRAFT BILL BEING REVIEWED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
24.	1.	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining	Jamaica Dairy Development Board (Amendment) Bill	To expand the definition of milk so as not to be restricted to milk from cows.
25.	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.
26.	3.	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.
27.	4.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Port Authority (Validation and Indemnification) Bill	To clarify the duties and powers of the Port Authority; increase fines; and confirm previous decisions and investments of the Authority.
28.	5.	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.
29.	6.	Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information	Overseas Examination Commission (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the conduct of tests by the National Council on Technical and Vocational Education and Training as part of its broader administration of examinations processes to be performed by the OEC.
30.	7.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Income Tax (Large Scale Projects and Pioneering Industries) Bill	To create a coherent and self-contained legislative framework for the granting of fiscal incentives in respect of large scale projects qualifying for treatment.
31.	8.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the effective regulation of Natural Health Products, including nutraceuticals.
32.	9.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Nurses and Midwives (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the regulation of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.
33.	10.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill	To provide prescriptive rights to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.
34.	11.	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.
35.	12.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Jamaica Promotions Corporation (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the implementation of a regulatory regime for the film and screen-based audio-visual content industry, and other matters.
36.	13.	Ministry of Justice	Legal Aid (Amendment) Bill	To integrate the functions of the Legal Aid Council into a Department under the Ministry of Justice.

GOJ Legislation Programme 2024-2025
(Status as at the end of the legislative year (11 February 2025))

DRAFT BILL BEING REVIEWED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
37.	14.	Ministry of Justice	Mediation Bill	To establish a regulatory framework for the conduct of mediation in Jamaica.
38.	15.	Ministry of Justice	Notaries Public Bill	To repeal and replace the Act with one with provisions for the appointment, functions and jurisdiction of Notaries Public, and for connected matters.
39.	16.	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.
40.	17.	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Human Services Bill	To abolish the Board of Supervision and transfer its functions to the Ministry with responsibility for Local Government and introduce concepts that are reflective of modern human services approach to poor relief, and the strengthening of the administration of human services.
41.	18.	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.
42.	19.	Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport	Civil Aviation Bill	To ensure compliance with the current International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).
43.	20.	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.
44.	21.	Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport	Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act in accordance with section 47(1) of the Telecommunications Act; and correct an error in the Act.
45.	22.	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.
46.	23.	Ministry of Tourism	Tourist Board (Amendment) Bill	To transfer the licensing function from the Tourist Board to the Ministry of Tourism and repeal the River Rafting Act.

GOJ Legislation Programme 2024-2025
(Status as at the end of the legislative year (11 February 2025))

DRAFT BILL BEING REVIEWED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
47.	24.	Ministry of Tourism	River Rafting (Repeal) Bill	To repeal the Act and to transfer the licensing functions for rafts and raft captains to the Tourist Board Act.
48.	25.	Office of the Prime Minister	Cybercrimes (Amendment) Bill	Section 25 of the Act requires that its provisions be reviewed by a Joint Select Committee (JSC) of the Houses of Parliament after the expiration of three years from the date of commencement of the Act.
49.	26.	Office of the Prime Minister	National Housing Trust (Amendment) Bill	To make new provision for National Housing Trust contributions and related matters such as developing housing schemes for sale to contributors.

BEING DRAFTED/DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
50.	1.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Partnership (General) Bill Partnership (Limited) Bill Limited Liabilities Companies Bill Segregated Accounts Companies Bill	To create more business options for entrepreneurs and facilitate the ease of doing business within Jamaica.

CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
50.	1.	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining	Conch (Export Levy) Bill	To include a facility by which the period for making the payment of the levy may be established or extended, and for payment by instalment; and provide for the retroactivity of the instrument effecting the establishment or extension of time and payment by instalment.
52.	2.	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining	Praedial Larceny (Prevention) Bill	To increase the penalties attached to the relevant offences which falls under the jurisdiction of agricultural wardens.
53.	3.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Real Estate (Dealers and Developers) (Amendment) Bill	To bring all real estate professionals under the ambit of the Act, increase compliance with its provisions, address existing gaps and reduce the potential for the real estate sector to be used as a conduit for money laundering and terrorism financing.
54.	4.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Income Tax (Amendment) Bill General Consumption Tax (Amendment) Bill	To give effect to the Revenue Measures 2024/2025.

GOJ Legislation Programme 2024-2025
(Status as at the end of the legislative year (11 February 2025))

CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
#	No	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
55.	5.	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Pensions (Public Service) (Amendment) Bill	To allow public officers born between 1 August 1961 and 28 February 1963, the option to retire before attaining the normal retirement age of 65, under the conditions of normal retirement.
56.	6.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Copyright (Amendment) Bill	To provide for accompanying measures in order to ensure that authors and performers have an opportunity to benefit from the extension of the term of protection for copyright.
57.	7.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Scrap Metal Bill	To enact the Scrap Metal Act, incorporating the provisions of The Trade (Scrap Metal) Regulations, 2013, and relevant enforcement provisions, and consequently to repeal The Trade (Scrap Metal), Regulations, 2013.
58.	8.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Trade (Amendment) Bill	To authorise the Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce to make a retrospective Order.
59.	9.	Ministry of Justice	Jury (Amendment) Bill	To adjust the framework governing the payment made to persons summoned to participate in the jury selection and trial by jury process for criminal and civil matters in Jamaica.
60.	10.	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.
61.	11.	Ministry of National Security	Firearms (Prohibition, Restriction and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill	To, inter alia, improve the efficiency and administration of the legislation, streamline the penalties for specific offences under Parts II and IV, and strengthen the sentence reduction scheme to incentivise the provision of assistance to the Crown.
62.	12.	Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport	Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill	To permit the transport of children in public passenger vehicles without the driver needing to have the child wear or be conveyed in a prescribed child restraint system.
63.	13.	Ministry of Tourism	Travel Agencies Regulation (Amendment) Bill	To reflect changes in the tourism sector, between 1956 and the present.