

GOJ PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2025/2026
(as at the start of the legislative year, as submitted by Ministries)

BEFORE PARLIAMENT				
#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
1.	1.	Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information	Jamaica Teaching Council Bill	To formalize and advance teaching as a profession; contribute to improving the quality of teaching and learning in Jamaica by regulating the entry and standing of members of the teaching profession; establish and maintain the registers of teachers and the Roll of Instructors; establish and maintain professional standards for teacher competence and practice; regulate the professional conduct of teachers to ensure that teachers are fit and proper persons to teach; create an enabling environment for the continuing professional development of teachers; and for those purposes to establish a body to be called the Jamaica Teaching Council; and to provide for connected matters.
2.	2.	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.
3.	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 by making provisions for the restriction of the use of tobacco products and relevant products and the adoption and implementation of tobacco control policies.
4.	4.	Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs	Constitution (Amendment) (Republic of Jamaica) Bill	To establish the Republic of Jamaica and other matters.
5.	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/APPROVED BY LEGISLATION COMMITTEE				
#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
6.	1.	Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information	Education (Amendment) Bill	To amend the 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; with the exception of tertiary institutions and to amend the Education Regulations, 1980 in relation to the criteria for appointment as principal.

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#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
7.	2.	Ministry of Justice	Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) (Amendment) Bill	To empower the Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Board to consider applications for expungement of offences for which the sentence imposed was more than five years but not more than seven years; and to set the rehabilitation period applicable to those offences at twelve years (or eight years, in the case of a person who is under the age of eighteen years); empower the Board to expunge offences committed and expunged in a foreign jurisdiction, even if those offences are listed in the Third Schedule of the Act; provide for the automatic expungement of expungable convictions for which non-custodial sentences were imposed and completed prior to 1 January 2000; and outline the considerations to be made by the Board in reviewing an application for expungement.
8.	3.	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	National Solid Waste (Validation and Indemnification) Bill	To validate and confirm the deductions of contributions from employees of the Authority and the payment of these contributions to the MPM Waste Management Limited Pension Plan.

BILL BEING DRAFTED				
#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
9.	1.	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.
10	2.	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.
11	3.	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.
12	4.	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.
13	5.	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.

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#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
14	6.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Quantity Surveyors (Registration) Bill	To regulate the practice of quantity surveying in Jamaica, including the establishment of a Quantity Surveyors Registration Board to preside over the professional practice and ethical standards of all Quantity Surveyors, and the establishment of a Register of Quantity Surveyors.
15	7.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate Jamaica's ratification of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol) of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the wider Caribbean Region, as well as to address issues related to the illegal trade in wildlife, enforcement and other legal issues.
16	8.	Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information	Jamaica Tertiary Education Commission Bill	To establish a body called the Jamaica Tertiary Education Commission to promote and regulate tertiary education in Jamaica; and for connected matters.
17	9.	Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information	National Archives and Records Management Bill	To repeal and replace the Archives Act, 1982 and modernise the legislative and regulatory framework for records and information management systems across the Government of Jamaica.
18	10.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the effective regulation of Natural Health Products, including nutraceuticals.
19	11.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Nurses and Midwives (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the regulation of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.
20	12.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Limited Liabilities Companies Bill	To create more business options for entrepreneurs and facilitate the ease of doing business within Jamaica.
21	13.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Partnership (General) Bill	To create more business options for entrepreneurs and facilitate the ease of doing business within Jamaica.
22	14.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Partnership (Limited) Bill	To create more business options for entrepreneurs and facilitate the ease of doing business within Jamaica.
23	15.	Ministry of Justice	Mediation Bill	To establish a regulatory framework for the conduct of mediation in Jamaica.

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#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
24	16.	Ministry of Justice	Jury (Amendment) Bill	To adjust the framework for payments made to persons summoned to participate in the jury selection and trial by jury process for criminal and civil matters in Jamaica, as well as provide for a mechanism of continuation of trials in the absence of a jury in instances of jury tampering.
25	17.	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	National Insurance (Validation, Indemnification, and Amendment) Bill	To provide for an increase in benefits payable under the Act and to validate and indemnify the actions of the officers of the Ministry and/or its agents who paid out the increases in said benefits from 1 April 2023 to 1 June 2023.
26	18.	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.
27	19.	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Human Services Bill	To repeal and replace the Act, and abolish the Board of Supervision, transfer its functions to the Ministry with responsibility for local government and introduce new concepts reflective of a modern human services approach to poor relief.
28	20.	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	National Solid Waste Management (Amendment) Bill	To increase the maximum consecutive years an appointed member may serve on the Authority, from six consecutive years to nine consecutive years, and amend certain provisions relating to offences and fixed penalties for greater clarity and accuracy.
29	21.	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.
30	22.	Office of the Prime Minister	Cybercrimes (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act in keeping with recommendations made by a Joint Select Committee (JSC) of Parliament, established to review the Act, and approved by the Houses of Parliament.
31	23.	Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunication 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.
32	24.	Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunication and Transport	Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill	To ensure compliance with the current International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

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#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
33	25.	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.
34	26.	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.
35	27.	Ministry of Tourism	Travel Agencies Regulation (Amendment) Bill	To reflect changes in the tourism sector, between 1956 and the present.
36	28.	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.

CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
37	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), which Jamaica has already ratified.
38	2.	Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunication 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.