

GOJ PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2026/2027
(as at the start of the legislative year, as submitted by Ministries)

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BEFORE PARLIAMENT			
No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
1.	Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information	Jamaica Teaching Council Bill	To formalize and advance 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 registers 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 interest of the students and in the general public interest, that teachers are fit and proper persons to teach; to 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.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development	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.	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.	Ministry of Tourism	Jamaica Tourist Board Bill	To repeal and replace the Tourist Board Act and facilitate the repeal of the River Rafting Authority Act.

APPROVED BY CABINET FOR TABLING			
No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
5.	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining	The Conch (Export Levy) Bill	To: (a) empower the Minister, by order subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Representatives, to prescribe: (i) the period during which an exporter may pay the levy on conch and extend that period; and (ii) the manner in which the levy on conch shall be paid, whether in full or in instalments; (b) empower the Minister to waive, reduce or remit the levy on conch under specific circumstance; and (c) amend the constitution of the Board established under section 10 of the Act.
6.	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining	Jamaica Dairy Development Board (Amendment) Bill	To expand the definition of milk to include milk from ruminants and not to restrict the definition to solely milk from cows, which would be in alignment with international standards and practices; and to specify the composition of the Jamaica Dairy Development Board to comply with the legal requirements under the Public Bodies Management and Accountability (Nomination, Selection and Appointment of the Boards) Regulations, 2021.
7.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Jamaica Promotions Corporation (Amendment) Bill	To validate all acts done in relation to the issuance of special licences subsequent to the repeal of the Motion Picture (Encouragement) Act, effective 1 January 2014.
8.	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.

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BILL BEING DRAFTED			
No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
9.	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.
10.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development	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.
11.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development	Harbours (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Harbours Act in order to define the Authority referred to in the Act as the Port Authority.
12.	Ministry of Energy, Transport and Telecommunications	Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill	To ensure compliance with the current International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).
13.	Ministry of Energy, Transport and Telecommunications	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.
14.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the effective regulation of Natural Health Products, including nutraceuticals.
15.	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Nurses and Midwives (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the regulation of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.
16.	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.
17.	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs	Legal Aid (Amendment) Bill	To integrate the Legal Aid Council as a department of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.
18.	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs	Mediation Bill	To establish a regulatory framework for the conduct of mediation in Jamaica.
19.	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs	Notaries Public (Repeal and Replacement) Bill	To repeal and replace the Notaries Public Act and to enact a new Act which will provide for, inter alia, the appointment, functions and jurisdiction of Notaries Public and the setting of tariff fees for notarial services.
20.	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.
21.	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.
22.	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Human Services Bill	To repeal and replace the Poor Relief Act. Additionally, it seeks to 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.

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BILL BEING DRAFTED			
No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
23.	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. The opportunity is also being taken to amend certain provisions relating to offences and fixed penalties for greater clarity and accuracy.
24.	Ministry of National Security and Peace	Aliens Bill	To harmonize the provisions of the legislation in accordance with international standards and address current immigration and other emerging border security issues.
25.	Ministry of National Security and Peace	Firearms (Prohibition, Restriction and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill	To streamline the penalties for specific offences and strengthen the sentence reduction scheme for guilty pleas to incentivise the provision of assistance to the prosecution.
26.	Ministry of National Security and Peace	Immigration Restriction (Commonwealth Citizens) Bill	To harmonise the provisions of the legislation in accordance with international standards and address current immigration and other emerging border security issues.
27.	Ministry of Tourism	Travel Agent Bill	To amend the Travel Agencies Regulation Act, 1956 to reflect changes in the tourism sector, between 1956 and the present.
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.
29.	Ministry of Water, Environment and Climate Change	Forest Bill	To repeal and replace the Forest Act, 1966 to provide for, among other things, the streamlining of the functions of the Forestry Department related to forest administration and the expansion of the regulatory function of the Forestry Department, as it relates to forest management and protection.

DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED			
No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
30.	Ministry of Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development	Registration of Titles (Amendment) Bill	To implement an electronic system of land registration.

CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS			
No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
31.	Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport	Jamaica National Heritage Trust (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to incorporate UNESCO cultural Conventions ratified by Jamaica associated with world heritage, underwater and intangible cultural heritage and the prevention of illicit trading of cultural objects and to address the inconsistencies in the treatment of National Monuments and Protected National Heritage; outdated fines prescribed for breaches of the Act; expand cultural resource management and regulatory tools; inadequate powers and enforcement capabilities of the Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT); and align provisions with international

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No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
			<i>Conventions and accepted standards and address financial incentives.</i>
32.	<i>Ministry of Labour and Social Security</i>	<i>National Insurance (Amendment) Bill</i>	<i>To provide for an unemployment benefit under the National Insurance Act.</i>
33.	<i>Ministry of Energy, Transport and Telecommunications</i>	<i>Telecommunications (Amendment) Bill</i>	<i>To amend the Act in accordance with section 47(1) of the Telecommunications Act; and correct an error in the Act.</i>
34.	<i>Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce</i>	<i>Companies (Amendment) Bill</i>	<i>To amend section 157 of the Companies Act to remove the requirement for the entire Auditor's Report to be read before the company in general meetings.</i>
35.	<i>Office of the Cabinet</i>	<i>National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority Bill</i>	<i>To enable the National Reconstruction and Resilience Authority (NaRRA) to require that decision-making processes for planning, environmental, construction and other required approvals be expedited, and to modify or disapply such processes where necessary to facilitate timely project delivery; and incorporate a framework for economic resilience and strategic investment facilitation through the Facilitated Acceleration of Strategic Transformation (FAST) framework, within the Authority's existing statutory architecture.</i>