

GOJ LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2014/2015 as at 31 MARCH 2015

PASSED			
#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
1.	Ministry of Finance and Planning	The Appropriations Act, 2014 Act No. 4/2014	To apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending on the 31 st day of March 2015, and to appropriate the sums granted in this Session of Parliament.
2.	Ministry of Finance and Planning	The Appropriations Act, 2015	To apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending on the 31 st day of March 2016, and to appropriate the sums granted in this Session of Parliament.
3.	Ministry of Finance and Planning	The Banking Services Act, 2014 Act No. 6/2014	To facilitate the enactment of a single new legislation to merge the provisions of the Banking Act, the Financial Institutions Act, and the Bank of Jamaica (Building Societies) Act and Regulations, and for amendments to existing provisions to facilitate the enhanced supervision of institutions licenced under the Banking Act, the Financial Institutions Act, and the Bank of Jamaica (Building Societies) Regulations.
4.	Ministry of Finance and Planning	The Betting, Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Act, 2014 Act 5/2014	To enable the Betting Gaming and Lotteries Commission (BGLC) to provide for more effective regulation of the industry for the protection of the stakeholders and consumers.
5.	Ministry of Finance and Planning	The Customs (Amendment) Act, 2014 Act No. 11/2014	To enhance border control by providing for advance passenger and cargo information to be submitted electronically to the Commissioner of Customs through the introduction of the software ASYCUDA.
6.	Ministry of Finance and Planning	The Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Act, 2015 Act No. 4/2015	To strengthen and clarify certain aspects of the Enhanced Fiscal Rules.
7.	Ministry of Finance and Planning	The General Consumption Tax (Amendment) Act, 2014 Act No. 10/2014	(i) To improve the efficiency of the tax collection system to provide the Commissioner General with documentary proof of acquisition where taxable activities are acquired; (ii) To impose general consumption tax on services provided to a person who is resident in Jamaica by a non-resident or by a resident carrying on a business out of Jamaica; (iii) To amend the General Consumption Tax Regulations, 1991 to modernise the method of calculating input tax credits where there is a combination of taxable and exempt supply of goods and services; and (iv) To widen the range of offences under the Act and to make penalties for breach of these offences appropriate and realistic.
8.	Ministry of Finance and Planning	The General Consumption Tax (Amendment)(No. 2) Act, 2014 Act No. 16/2014	To amend the General Consumption Tax Act to give effect to the introduction of a new regime for General Consumption Tax Group Accounts.

Categories

- 1 Passed
- 4 Being considered/Approved by LC
- 7 Cabinet approval of drafting instructions

- 2 Tabled
- 5 Bill being drafted

- 3 Approved by Cabinet for tabling
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#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
9.	Ministry of Finance and Planning	The Public Bodies Management and Accountability (Amendment) Act, 2015 Act No. 3/2015	To differentiate between the application of various provisions to public bodies that are within the specified public sector and those which are not part of the specified public sector, and to enable certain provisions to come into operation on 1 April 2017.
10.	Ministry of Finance and Planning	The Securities (Amendment) Act, 2014 Act No. 23/2014	To enhance the legal and regulatory framework for retail repurchase agreements in Jamaica.
11.	Ministry of Finance and Planning	The Tax Collections (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2014 Act No. 9/2014	To amend the Income Tax Act, the Revenue Administration Act and the Tax Collection Act to provide additional measures to facilitate the collection of taxes.
12.	Ministry of Finance and Planning	The Tax Penalties (Harmonisation) Act, 2014 Act No. 8/2014	To amend the Education Tax Act and the Income Tax Act to increase the penalties for various offences thereunder and make the penalties for similar offences in the different Acts more consistent and remove those that were out-dated.
13.	Ministry of Finance and Planning	The Transfer Tax (Amendment) Act Act No. 24/2014	To amend the Transfer Tax Act to provide exemptions for certain securities in a new Collective Investment Scheme, as defined in the Securities Act amended in 2013, and to make consequential amendments to the Stamp Duty (Amendment of Schedule) Order.
14.	Ministry of Finance and Planning	The Urban Renewal (Tax Relief)(Amendment) Act Act No. 2/2015	To grant the Minister power to effect retroactive application of the incentives, as well as to allow the Minister to make a modification to the relevant Orders granting such incentives.
15.	Ministry of Health	The Quarantine (Validation and Indemnity) Act, 2014 Act No. 18/2014	To validate and confirm acts done in good faith by the Authority in carrying out their functions under the Act and to indemnify persons from liability in respect of such acts for the period 4 February 2011 to 12 June 2011.
16.	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	The Insolvency Act, 2014 Act No. 14/2014	To review the laws relating to personal and corporate insolvencies in Jamaica to aid in the rehabilitation of debtors and the presentation viable businesses; ensure procedural clarity in the operation of insolvency laws in Jamaica; make recommendations for the appropriate legislative changes, including Temporary protection from creditors; Reduction of the need for court proceedings and where necessary simplify the process and reduce delays; A system for licencing and regulating private trustees; and Similar qualification requirements for all trustees; and make the necessary amendments to the Companies Act.
17.	Ministry of Justice	The Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders)(Amendment) Act, 2014 Act No. 12/2014	To amend the Bill to reduce the rehabilitation period from 2 phases to 1 phase, provide for the automatic expungement of certain minor offences, and to exclude certain serious offences from record expungement.

Categories

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#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
18.	Ministry of Justice	The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2015 Act No. 5/2015	To provide for the possession of small quantities of ganja for personal use and the smoking of ganja in private places, and to decriminalize the possession of ganja for use for religious purposes, for therapeutic purpose as prescribed by a registered medical practitioner, or for purposes of approved scientific research.
19.	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	The Disabilities Act, 2014 Act No. 13/2014	To provide for further protection and legal entrenchment of rights of persons with disabilities
20.	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	The Employment (Flexible Work Arrangements)(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2014 Act No. 15/2014	To facilitate the implementation of Flexible Work Arrangements based on the White Paper.
21.	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	The Disaster Risk Management Act, 2015 Act No. 1/2015	To provide for a strengthened legislative framework for disaster management. This Bill will replace the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management Act.
22.	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	The Municipalities (Validation and Amendment) Act, 2014 Act No. 4/2014	To allow Deputy Mayor to assume the office of Mayor in the event of the death, resignation, absence, incapacity, disqualification from any of the Mayor where such vacancy arises after fifteen months of the incumbent having held the office of Mayor.
23.	Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining	The Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2014 Act No. 21/2014	The Bill seeks to promote good democratic governance and provide for inter alia, the registration of political parties and the procedures for registration; refusal of and objection to the application for registration and deregistration of political parties; procedures for application for state funding; qualifications for state funding; obligations of registered political parties that qualify for state funding; and use of state funding by political parties.
24.	Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment	The Timeshare Vacations Act, 2014 Act No. 17/2014	To develop a framework to facilitate the introduction of Timeshare/Vacation Owners schemes in Jamaica.
25.	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	The Mortgage Insurance (Amendment) Act, 2014 Act No. 19/2014	To amend the Mortgage Insurance Act to allow for an increase in the aggregate per centum of the appraised value of the property on which mortgage indemnity insurance can be granted.
26.	Office of the Prime Minister	The Anti-Doping in Sport Act, 2014 Act No. 22/2014	To repeal the Anti-Coping in Sport Act, 2008, and to introduce new provisions for anti-doping in sport in order to align Jamaica's anti-doping legislation with the revised World Anti-Doping Agency Code.

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GOJ LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2014/2015 as at 31 MARCH 2015

BILL TABLED IN PARLIAMENT				
#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
27.	1	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Plants (Quarantine) (Amendment) Bill	To harmonise sanitary and phytosanitary measures with WTO requirements
28.	2	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Income Tax (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the increase in the personal income tax threshold and to give permanent effect to matters previously effected provisionally.
29.	3	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Insurance (Amendment) Bill	To address weaknesses identified in the legislation
30.	4	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Land Valuation (Amendment) Bill	To implement measures to significantly improve the compliance rates for property taxes.
31.	5	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Minimum Business Tax Bill	To give permanent effect to the terms of the Provisional Collection of Tax (Minimum Business Tax) Order, 2014, and to validate the collection of the tax during the period in which the provisional order had expired.
32.	6	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Property Tax (Amendment) Bill	To implement measures to significantly improve the compliance rates for property taxes.
33.	7	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Public Procurement Bill	To provide for the framework for public sector procurement system and to legally separate that National Contracts Commission from the Office of the Contractor General.
34.	8	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Revenue Appeals Division Bill	To create the Revenue Appeals Division in replacement of the Taxpayer Appeals Departments; and to establish the Division, Commissioner, Officers, functions and powers.
35.	9	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Tax Collections (Amendment) Bill	To implement measures to significantly improve the compliance rates for property taxes.
36.	10	Ministry of Justice	Administrator General (Amendment) Bill	To provide the Administrator-General with special powers to permit the settling of estates which the Administrator General is currently unable to complete and to amend existing legislation pertinent to the granting of Probate and Letters of Administration by the Supreme Court and the Resident Magistrates' Courts, with the aim of reducing processing time and addressing anomalies in the law.
37.	11	Ministry of Justice	Caribbean Court of Justice (Original Jurisdiction) Bill	To make provisions for the implementation of the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice, and for connected matters
38.	12	Ministry of Justice	Constitution (Amendment) (Local Government) Bill	To have Local Government included in the Constitution

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#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
39.	13	Ministry of Justice	Constitution (Amendment) (Caribbean Court of Justice) Bill	To provide for the replacement of appeals to Her Majesty in Council with new provisions for appeals to the Caribbean Court of Justice as Jamaica's final appellate court; and for connected matters.
40.	14	Ministry of Justice	Evidence (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the introduction of significant reforms to, among other things, allow for the reports of experts to be admitted into evidence without the need to call the expert who made the report.
41.	15	Ministry of Justice	Integrity Commission Bill	To establish a single anti-corruption entity to assume the functions of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, the Integrity Commission and the Office of the Contractor General.
42.	16	Ministry of Justice	Judicature (Appellate Jurisdiction) (Amendment) Bill	To repeal the provisions for appeal to Her Majesty in Council and to replace those provisions for appeals to the Caribbean Court of Justice; and enact transitional provisions to exclude from the application of the provisions of the Bill, appeals to Her Majesty in Council which were instituted, where leave was granted or application for leave was made, before the date of commencement of the amending provisions.
43.	17	Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining	Electricity Bill	To modernise the legislation relating to the electricity sector and repeal the Electric Lighting Act, 1890
44.	18	Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining	Quarries Control (Amendment) Bill	To amend the existing Act to improve the management of quarries.
45.	19	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill	To repeal and replace the current Road Traffic Act and Regulations (1938) and Companion Acts and Regulations; and establish Island Traffic Authority as a statutory body.

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BILL APPROVED FOR TABLING IN PARLIAMENT				
#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
46.	1	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Income Tax (Amendment)(No. 2) Bill	To introduce a transfer pricing regime.
47.	2	Ministry of Justice	Criminal Justice Administration (Amendment) Bill	To make provision for the sentence reduction on guilty pleas.
48.	3	Ministry of Justice	Criminal Justice Administration (Amendment) Bill	To make provision for the sentence reduction on guilty pleas.
49.	4	Ministry of Justice	Judicature (Appellate Jurisdiction)(Amendment) Bill	To make provision for the sentence reduction on guilty pleas.
50.	5	Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining	Cybercrimes (Amendment) Bill	The repeal and replacement of the Cybercrimes Act to take into account the rapid evolution in technology which has presented major challenges for the existing legislation.
51.	6	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill	To increase the number of members of the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority.

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BILL BEING CONSIDERED/APPROVED BY LEGISLATION COMMITTEE				
#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
52.	1	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Fishing Industry (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen Jamaica's fisheries enforcement operations through an increase in the monetary penalties and other means.
53.	2	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Income Tax (Amendment) Bill (No.5)	To resolve a conflict between Section 70 of the Income Tax Act which allowed expansive power to obtain information and the Revenue Administration Act which were more instructive; and to adapt the recommendations of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes and affiliate OECD, that Jamaica amend its tax laws to eliminate the current position where under the Revenue Administration Act, information was obtained on pensions of interest to the Jamaica tax authorities.
54.	3	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Tax Collection (Amendment) Bill and Revenue Administration (Amendment) Bill	To improve and increase the collection of domestic taxes of all types.
55.	4	Ministry of Health	Mental Health (Amendment) Bill	To provide for treatment of patients by Mental Health Officers without their consent.
56.	5	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Copyright (Amendment) Bill (No.1)	To strengthen the copyright system in Jamaica and enact the Copyright (Licensing Bodies) Regulations and to ensure Jamaica's accession to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Copyright Treaty.
57.	6	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Weights and Measures Act and Regulations (Amendment) Bill	To provide for an increase in the fines and penalties; and to allow for the Minister to amend monetary penalties by Order, subject to affirmative resolution.
58.	7	Ministry of Justice	Law Revision (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Law Revision Act in order to amend the methods for the appointment of Statute Law Commissioners.
59.	8	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Building Bill	(i) To improve the efficiency of the building approval process and provide a framework for the effective management of the building industry. (ii) To incorporate the Kingston and St. Andrew Building Act and the Parish Council Building Act.
60.	9	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	National Solid Waste Authority (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to increase the number of Board Members from 11 to 13 by the inclusion of two (2) representatives of the Association of Local Government Authorities of Jamaica., and to allow the Minister, by order and subject to affirmative resolution of each House of Parliament, to amend the monetary penalties specified in the Act and any of the Schedules t.
61.	10	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Road Maintenance Fund (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the Road Maintenance Fund (RMF) using funds received from the Special Consumption Tax on fuel or any other source except the motor vehicle licensing fees to undertake road construction works and any other related infrastructure road works; change the name of the RMF to the Jamaica Road Fund; and amend the definition of the word maintenance to include parochial roads.

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GOJ LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2014/2015 as at 31 MARCH 2015

BILL BEING DRAFTED				
#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
62.	1	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Agricultural Credit Board (Repeal) Bill	To repeal the Act to, inter alia, transfer functions of the Agricultural Credit Board to the Registrar of Co-operatives and wind up the operations of the Board.
63.	2	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Animal Disease and Importation of (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate importation, distribution, storage of animal products including milk and by-products with regard to disease and safety
64.	3	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Facilities for Title (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to allow for application to bring land under the Registration of Titles Act without first having to apply for a loan and make provision for a Community Land Tribunal at the Parish level for adjudicating rights and interest in land and resolving disputes.
65.	4	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Fishing Industry (Amendment) Bill	To repeal and replace existing Act for the better management of the fishing industry
66.	5	Ministry of Education	Jamaica Teaching Council Bill	To provide for the establishment of the Jamaica Teaching Council, consequential amendments to the provisions of the Education Act dealing with the Teachers Service Commission, and for the introduction of a system of teacher licensing.
67.	6	Ministry of Education	Jamaica Tertiary Education Commission Bill	To provide for the establishment of a national oversight body for tertiary education in Jamaica (J-TEC).
68.	7	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Amendment the constituent Acts of various Statutory bodies; Public Bodies Management and Accountability (Amendment) Bill and Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Bill	To harmonize the enabling statute of statutory bodies to the PBMA Act so as to improve the governance and accountability of such bodies and for related matters.
69.	8	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Bank of Jamaica (Amendment) Bill	To designate the Bank of Jamaica with overall responsibility for financial stability
70.	9	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Bank of Jamaica (Amendment) Bill	To designate the Bank of Jamaica with overall responsibility for financial stability
71.	10	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Casino Gaming (Amendment) Bill	To make corrections to some errors within the Casino Gaming Act and to put in place regulations to give effect to the operational elements of the licensing regime.
72.	11	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Customs (Validation and Indemnification)(Amendment) Bill	To validate the implementation of the Customs User Fee (CUF) and the amendment of the Customs Regulations to unequivocally reflect the use of the Fee so that it accords with GATT standards.

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#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
73.	12	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Customs (Amendment) Bill & Regulations	To complete the comprehensive review and modernisation of the Customs Act to support the reforms in customs administration. This will include amendments to provide for more effective penalties.
74.	13	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Executive Agencies (Amendment) Bill	(i) To allow Parliament's approval to be given through negative resolution rather than affirmative resolution when prescribing the fees and charges to be imposed by an Executive Agency; (ii) To recognise bodies that have been designated as Executive Agencies and to empower the Minister, through order, to update this list periodically; and To allow for pensions portability between Executive Agencies and Central Government.
75.	14	Ministry of Finance and Planning	International Tax Compliance and Exchange of Information Bill	To enable the automatic sharing of tax information by Jamaican financial institutions and the Central Authority (i.e., Tax Administration Jamaica).
76.	15	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Micro Credit Bill	To allow for the establishment of a regulatory framework for privately-owned moneylending institutions that were not regulated by any of the supervisory authorities. Consequential amendments to the Moneylending Act, Credit Reporting Act, and Proceeds of Crime Act.
77.	16	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Public Accountancy (Amendment) Bill	To improve and strengthen the effectiveness of the accountancy profession.
78.	17	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Public Bodies Management and Accountability (Amendment) Bill and Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Bills	PBMA to be amended to facilitate designation of CEO's of PB's as Accounting Officers. Redefining Accounting Officer to allow for appointment of CEO's of public bodies
79.	18	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Public Enterprises (Removal of Tax Concessions)(Amendment) Bill	To remove tax exemptions from certain public enterprises.
80.	19	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill	A reduction in the Additional Stamp Duty payable on alcoholic beverages, in light of, inter alia, indications from the tourism industry regarding the significant negative impact on the industry's continued competitiveness arising from the recent adjustments in the tax regime for alcoholic beverages.
81.	20	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide	To implement the obligations under the Convention and needed for the International Criminal Court legislation
82.	21	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	Diving Regulation Bill	To regulate commercial diving activities and diving equipment, safety standards and other pertinent matters

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#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
83.	22	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	Geneva Conventions and its Protocols Bill	To provide for implementing the obligations under the Convention and Protocols.
84.	23	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction Bill	To implement obligations under the Convention.
85.	24	Ministry of Health	Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Bill	To implement the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical weapons and on their destruction.
86.	25	Ministry of Health	Nurses and Midwives (Amendment) Bill	To establish a Nurse Practitioner Council to regulate control and monitor all categories of Nurse Practitioner and to provide for the legal recognition of the clinical practice of Family Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Anaesthetists and Mental Health Nurse Practitioners to enable them to prescribe a limited list of drugs set out in their practice protocols.
87.	26	Ministry of Health	Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill	To make provisions inter alia for the regulation, control and monitoring of all categories of Nurse practitioners as it relates to prescriptive rights and matters connected.
88.	27	Ministry of Health	Pharmacy (Validation and Indemnity of Functions of the Registration Appeal Tribunal) Bill	To validate and confirm acts done in good faith by the Tribunal in carrying out their functions under the Act and to indemnify persons from liability in respect of such acts for the period 3 August 2011 to 6 November 2011.
89.	28	Ministry of Health	Professions Supplementary to Medicine (Amendment) Bill	To change the name of the legislation; change the name of the Council to "Council for Health and Allied Health Professions;" and to delete proviso to section 15 (1) which allows persons in related professions in the public sector to be exempt from registration.
90.	29	Ministry of Health	Radiation (Safety & Control) Bill	To regulate safety of radiation to users & unsuspecting public and to make provisions for the control of the use of ionizing radiation and for the protection of the health and safety of persons and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation.
91.	30	Ministry of Health	Registration (Births and Deaths) (Amendment) Bill	To make provision for: (i) the compulsory registration of the names of unmarried fathers; (ii) the inclusion of penalties for misrepresentation or refusal of the mother to name the father; and the imposition of fees for the provision of services relating to section 19B (4) of the Act.
92.	31	Ministry of Health	Rotterdam Convention Bill	To provide for prior informed consent for hazardous chemical and to make provision for the protection of human health and the environment from potential harm.
93.	32	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Cooperative & Friendly Societies (Amendment) Bill	To place the activities of Credit Unions within the regulatory ambit of BOJ; To develop Youth Credit Unions, To register deposit taking businesses, amalgamation, conversion and acquisitions etc.; To restrict deposit taking activities of Cooperative Societies.

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94.	33	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Fair Competition (Amendment) Bill	(i) To improve efficacy of the FTC in fulfilling its duties, including restructuring the FTC to include an independent Tribunal with responsibility to adjudicate matters investigated by the Commission and hear appeals; (ii) To allow the Act to apply to all markets and industries, except where specifically exempted by another law; and To generally update the Act to ensure conformity with best practices in the markets with which the FTC is concerned.
95.	34	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	i. Holding Company and International Business Company Bill; ii. Trusts Bill; iii. Trust and Service Provider Bill; and iv. Limited Liability Bill	To support the suite of services offered by the Jamaica International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
96.	35	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Patents & Design Bill	To replace and repeal Patents Act and the Design Act; fulfil all the provisions of the Trade-Related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and the USA/Jamaica Bilateral Treaty on Intellectual Property; and bring Act into conformity with international standards of protection for inventors and innovators.
97.	36	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Scrap Metal Bill	To provide for additional enforcement provisions and the repeal of the Trade (Scrap Metal) Regulations 2013.
98.	37	Ministry of Justice	Arbitration Bill	Cabinet approved the repeal and replacement of the Arbitration Act (1900), the Arbitration Clauses Act (1931), and the Arbitration (Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Awards) Act (2001) and consequential implementation of a new comprehensive Arbitration Act to govern the conduct and practice of domestic as well as international arbitration in Jamaica.
99.	38	Ministry of Justice	Constitution (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Constitution of Jamaica to replace Her Majesty the Queen with a non-executive President as Head of State and thereby make Jamaica a Republic
100.	39	Ministry of Justice	Introduction of Notice of Alibi Bill	To require advance notice of an alibi defence from an accused person.
101.	40	Ministry of Justice	Jury (Amendment) Bill	To generally improve the administration of the criminal justice system, and to specifically address the problem of the shortage of jurors to serve in the Circuit Courts.
102.	41	Ministry of Justice	Mutual Assistance (Criminal Matters) (Amendment) Bill	To introduce evidence by TV and video recorded evidence.
103.	42	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	National Assistance Bill	To incorporate institutional changes under the Social Safety Net Reform (a Unified Benefits Programme) and repeal the Poor Relief Law, 1886.

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104.	43	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	Occupational Health & Safety Bill	To provide for safety standards at workplace
105.	44	Ministry of National Security	DNA Evidence Bill	To provide for the taking of DNA samples from persons arrested in relation to specified offences.
106.	45	Ministry of National Security	Maritime Drug Trafficking (Suppression)(Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the waiver of Jamaica's jurisdiction over Jamaican nationals suspected of engaging in illicit trafficking seaward of Jamaica's territorial sea.
107.	46	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Maritime Labour Convention Bill	To give effect to the Maritime Labour Convention; and to amend related laws.
108.	47	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Port Authority of Jamaica Bill	To repeal and replace existing Act, to ensure that the legislation relating to the Authority was in keeping with the Shipping Act, 1998; to bring several Acts relating to maritime activities and port operations, repeal a number of existing Acts, including the Harbour Fees Act, the Harbour Lights and Lighthouse Act and the Port Authority Act; and to address the weakness in power and functions of the Port Authority of Jamaica.
109.	48	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Rent Restriction (Change of Name & Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the provision of adequate legislation governing the rental of properties in Jamaica and to bring about greater efficiency in the processing of applications & complaints.
110.	49	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Ships) Bill	To provide for the incorporation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973 as amended (MARPOL73/78). The legislation will also incorporate the 1997 protocol to MARPOL 73/78 which regulates the prevention of air pollution from ships.

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GOJ LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2014/2015 as at 31 MARCH 2015

DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED				
#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
111.	1	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Veterinary (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to achieve consistency with current practices in veterinary medicine; correct inherent deficiencies; and ensure the objectives of the Act were met.
112.	2	Ministry of Education	Mico University College (Validation and Indemnification) Bill	To provide for the validation and indemnity of all acts by the Mico University College from 2006 to 2010, during which time the College operated without the existence of a valid scheme of management, due to an omission to gazette the order approving its scheme of management.
113.	3	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Contractor General (Amendment) Bill	To validate the actions of the National Contracts Commission with respect to its mandate to register and classify contractors.
114.	4	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	Rome Statute Bill	To establish the International Criminal Court under the laws of Jamaica to enable the ratification of the Rome Statute.
115.	5	Ministry of Justice	Sexual Harassment Bill	To address concerns surrounding sexual harassment in general, and in particular, in the workplace.
116.	6	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Local Governance Bill, Local Government Financing and Financial Management Bill, Local Government (United Services and Employment) Bill	To provide an appropriate legal framework for the reformed local government system.
117.	7	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Caribbean Maritime Institute (Amendment) Bill	To allow the Caribbean Maritime Institute to obtain degree-granting powers, grant and confer degrees and change the name to the Caribbean Maritime University.
118.	8	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Public Passenger Transport (KMTR)(Amendment) Bill, Public Passenger Transport (Rural Areas)(Amendment) Bill	To merge the Public Passenger Transport (KMTR) Act with the Public Passenger Transport (Rural Areas) Act to eliminate the duplications between the two Acts.
119.	9	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Transport Authority Act	To amend the Act to incorporate Sections 60 – 89 of the current Road Traffic Act and to modernise the current Transport Authority Act.
120.	10	Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change	Real Estate (Dealers and Developers) (Amendment) Bill	To strengthen the Real Estate (Dealers and Developers) Act which governs the practice of Real Estate business in Jamaica.

Categories

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| 1 | Passed | 2 | Tabled | 3 | Approved by Cabinet for tabling |
| 4 | Being considered/Approved by LC | 5 | Bill being drafted | 6 | Drafting instructions issued |
| 7 | Cabinet approval of drafting instructions | | | | |

GOJ LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2014/2015 as at 31 MARCH 2015

CABINET APPROVED ISSUE OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
121.	1	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Agricultural Commodity Regulatory Authority Bill	To replace the Coffee Industry Board, the Cocoa Industry Board, the Coconut Industry Board, and the Export Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
122.	2	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Jamaica Dairy Development Board (Validation) Bill	To validate the operations of the Jamaica Dairy Development Board for the period 10 March 2009 to 2 July 2012.
123.	3	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Appropriations Bill 2015	To apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March 2016, and to appropriate the sums granted in this Session of Parliament.
124.	4	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Contractor General (Amendment)(No.2) Bill	To amend the Contractor General Act to enable a properly-defined mechanism for determining projects which are of strategic national importance, with a view to exempting such projects from the procurement process.
125.	5	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Customs (Amendment) Bill (1)	To give formal effect to the implementation of the CARIFORUM/EC Economic Partnership Agreement, giving effect to the reduction of the Most Favoured Nation rate of duty on goods as set out in Appendix 1 of Annex III of said the Agreement.
126.	6	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Customs (Amendment) Bill (2)	To enable the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement between the Government of the Dominican Republic and CARICOM.
127.	7	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Customs (Amendment) Bill (3)	To enable the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement between the Government of Cuba and CARICOM.
128.	8	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Customs (Amendment) Bill (4)	To enable the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement between the Government of Costa Rica and CARICOM.
129.	9	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Customs (Amendment) Bill (6)	To modify the bond/security requirement for the temporary importation of goods related to tourism and entertainment.
130.	10	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Duty Regime Relating to Automotive Diesel Oil – HS 2710.19.40 (Customs) Bill	To lower the Common External Tariff (CET) from ten per cent to zero per cent in respect of the Automotive Diesel Oil so as to ensure Petrojam's ability to guarantee its supply as well as the consistent costing of the product in the event that its traditional supply source proved inadequate.
131.	11	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Financial Services Commission (Amendment) Bill	To allow the Commission to borrow sums required to meet any obligation or carry out any of its functions.
132.	12	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Fiscal Incentives (Miscellaneous Provisions)(Amendment) Bill	To provide for a revised election date for tourism operators.
133.	13	Ministry of Finance and Planning	General Consumption (Amendment) Bill Customs (Amendment) Bill	To address anomalies and policy incoherence that had adversely affected entities operating within the free zone, particularly the Business Operating Outsourcing sector and various sub-sectors within the tourism industry.

Categories

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GOJ LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2014/2015 as at 31 MARCH 2015

CABINET APPROVED ISSUE OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
134.	14	Ministry of Finance and Planning	General Consumption Tax (Amendment) Bill (5) and Customs (Amendment) Act	To amend the General Consumption Tax Act and the Customs Act to address issues ration to duty and tax exemptions on energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, and to reflection approval of Common External Tariff exemptions granted by CARICOM's Council of Trade and Economic Development for a period of five years from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2017.
135.	15	Ministry of Finance and Planning	General Consumption Tax (Amendment) Bill (6)	To amend the General Consumption Tax Act to provide for zero rating with respect to the supply of electricity to or for residential customers for private and domestic use to be implemented on 1 June 2013.
136.	16	Ministry of Finance and Planning	General Consumption Tax (Amendment) Bill (7)	To amend the General Consumption Tax Act to replace the petroleum cess with an ad valorem tariff.
137.	17	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Income Tax (Amendment) Bill	To provide for an increase in the threshold amount in respect of concessionary loans to directors and employees of specified financial institutions from \$1.5m to \$4.5m.
138.	18	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Licences on Trade and Business (Amendment) Bill	To amend existing administrative forms, insert new forms and allow for subsequent amendments to the Second Schedule to be effected by Ministerial Order.
139.	19	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Pensions (Superannuation Funds and Retirement Schemes) (Amendment) Bill	To further pensions reforms including enabling mandatory vesting, locking-in, portability of pensions rights, indexation of pensions, and civil penalties.
140.	20	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Property Tax (Amendment) Bill	To amend property tax rates with effect from 1st April, 2014.
141.	21	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Public Debt Management (Amendment) Bill	To make certain corrections to the Act.
142.	22	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Public Sector Pension Scheme Bill	To establish one pension scheme for public sector workers to facilitate easy linkage of service and allow for a more efficient administration of the pension system.
143.	23	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill & Transfer Tax (Amendment) Bill	To provide exemptions for certain securities in a new Collective Investment Scheme, as defined in the Securities Act as amended in 2013.
144.	24	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Statistics (Amendment) Bill	To include the establishment of the Statistics Commission and to expand the scope of the Act to include support to the statistical services being carried performed in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies.
145.	25	Ministry of Finance and Planning	Travel Tax (Amendment) Bill	To introduce an Airline Passenger Levy payable by travellers arriving in Jamaica by air from any place outside of Jamaica.
146.	26	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Companies Act (Amendment) Bill	To give effect to the recommendations of the Global Forum that have been outstanding since 2010. Those amendments were intended to complement amendments to the Revenue Administration Act.

Categories

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GOJ LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2014/2015 as at 31 MARCH 2015

CABINET APPROVED ISSUE OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
147.	27	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Companies Act (Amendment) (2) Bill	To make amendments identified by stakeholders in a review of the Act that would further strengthen the efficiency and operation of companies in Jamaica.
148.	28	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to increase the powers of the FSPID inspectors to include the right to seize equipment, related to any articles to which the Act applies, which are defective; and the rights to request documents in relation to the articles being inspected and the power to detain vehicles and containers used to transport food, and also buildings, if they are infested or contaminated, or liable to be infested or contaminated; amend certain definitions to give effect to new Provisions; allow the FSPID to pass the cost associated with removal, storage and/or destruction of infested or contaminated commodities to the offending party; and remove the powers that the FSPID has for licensing pest control operations in food areas but retain powers to certification of such activities.
149.	29	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Protection of Geographical Indications (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act so as to grant the same protections granted to wines and spirits to other goods and products; to establish the Jamaican Commission on Geographical Indications, and to establish a Geographical Indications Register.
150.	30	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Trade Marks Act and Rules to allow for the implementation of the Madrid Protocol once Jamaica becomes a signatory.
151.	31	Ministry of Justice	Criminal Justice (Reform) Amendment Bill, Child Care and Protection (Amendment) Bill, Corrections (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the incorporation of the Restorative Justice Programme into the justice system.
152.	32	Ministry of Justice	Judicature (Resident Magistrate) (Amendment) Bill	To grant a limited right of appeal to the prosecution on the grounds of sentencing that was unduly lenient, inadequate or illegal.
153.	33	Ministry of Justice	Judicature (Resident Magistrate) (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill	To strengthen the Resident Magistrates Courts by naming them as Parish courts, increasing the minimum period of practice, remove the residency requirements, provide immunity for liability and other such amendments. Subsequent amendments will also be made to the Coroners Act, the Justices of the Peace Jurisdiction Act and the Judicature (Supreme Court) Act.
154.	34	Ministry of Justice	Judicature (Supreme Court) (Amendment) Bill	To delineate the lines of responsibility and accountability for administrative services for the Judiciary and the court system.
155.	35	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	Labour Relations and Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill	To protect the worker's right to worship after the institution of the flexible work arrangements under the Employment (Flexible Work Arrangements) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2014, which sought to remove restrictions in existing legislation in order to enable the implementation of flexi-work.

Categories

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GOJ LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2014/2015 as at 31 MARCH 2015

CABINET APPROVED ISSUE OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
156.	36	Ministry of Labour and Social Security	National Insurance (Amendment) Bill	To allow for an actuarial review of the National Insurance Scheme to be conducted every three years.
157.	37	Ministry of National Security	Constables (District)(Amendment) Bill	To enable members of the Rural Police (District Constables) to become pensionable.
158.	38	Ministry of National Security	Constabulary Force (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the incorporation of the Island Special Constabulary Force into the Jamaica Constabulary Force and to provide for connected matters.
159.	39	Ministry of National Security	Firearms (Amendment) Bill	To facilitate the smooth operation of the Firearm Licensing Authority and enable the FLA to address fiscal demands.
160.	40	Ministry of National Security	Firearms (Amendment) Bill Offensive Weapons (Prohibition) Bill Customs (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the acquisition and use of less lethal weapons b civilians for self-protection and defence, and the use of graduated force by law enforcement personnel in Jamaica incorporating the use of such weapons.
161.	41	Ministry of National Security	Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency Bill	To give effect to the new Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency.
162.	42	Ministry of National Security	Noise Abatement (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the establishment of Parish Extension Committees for the purpose of granting time extension on permits for entertainment events.
163.	43	Ministry of National Security	Personnel Security Vetting Bill	To determine the suitability of persons being employed to the Public Service, as well as all other Government institutions
164.	44	Ministry of National Security	Private Security Regulations Authority (Amendment) Bill	To bring it in line with modern legislation and to allow for an increase in fees charged by Private Security Regulation Authority (PSRA) for services provided to the public.
165.	45	Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining	Data Protection Bill	To implement a co-regulatory regime to address the protection of the privacy of individuals in relation to personal data; to regulate the collection, processing, keeping, use and disclosure of certain information relating to individuals; and to provide for connected matters.
166.	46	Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining	Electoral Commission (Validation and Indemnification) Bill	To validate all acts of the ECJ and/or the Minister of Local Government in prescribing electoral division boundaries, since the creation of the Commission in 2006.
167.	47	Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining	Parish Councils (Amendment) Bill; Kingston and St Andrew Corporation (Amendment) Bill; Electoral Commission (Interim)(Amendment) Bill	To empower the Electoral Commission of Jamaica to prescribe electoral division boundaries.

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GOJ LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2014/2015 as at 31 MARCH 2015

CABINET APPROVED ISSUE OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
#	No.	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
168.	48	Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining	Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill	To prohibit the publication of a new Voter's List between Nomination Day and Election Day.
169.	49	Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining	Telecommunications (Amendment) Act	To amend the Act to establish the basic requirements and conditions for the implementation and operation of number portability in Jamaica
170.	50	Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment	Tourist Board (Amendment) Bill	To allow for the fines under the regulations to be increased to \$500,000.00, and to amend the related regulations.
171.	51	Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing	Shipping (Amendment) Bill	To amend existing legislation to ratify the application of an annual fee in lieu of Customs Duty, Customs User Fee, Environmental Levy and General Consumption Tax payable by owners of yachts.
172.	52	Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change	Registration of Titles, Cadastral Mapping and Tenure Clarification (Special Provisions)(Amendment) Bill	To address systematic land tenure issues in order to improve the ability of the Land Administration and Management Programmes (LAMP) to bring land under the Registration of Titles Act.
173.	53	Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change	Water Supply and Sewerage Service Bill	To provide the framework for multiple service providers in the water sector through a licensing regime, and to establish the appropriate institutional framework, responsibilities and roles of the various players in the water sector consistent with the Policy.
174.	54	Office of the Prime Minister	Betting, Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Bill	To define the term 'Minister' as the context requires to enable alignment of administrative oversight for the Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education (CHASE) Fund with recommendations in the Public Sector Master Rationalisation Plan.

Categories

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