

PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2016/2017 AS AT FEBRUARY 2017

1

PASSED IN PARLIAMENT				
No .	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
1.		Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	The Partnership (General) Act , 2017 Act No. 3/2017	To provide for the formation and operation of general partnerships and support the suite of services offered by the Jamaica International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
2.		Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	The Partnership (Limited) Act, 2017 Act No. 4/2017	To provide for the formation and operation of limited partnerships, to repeal the Partnerships (Limited) Act and to support the suite of services offered by the Jamaica International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
3.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Appropriation Act, 2016 Act No. 12/2016	To apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending on the 31 st day of March, 2017 and to appropriate the sums granted in this Session of Parliament.
4.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Betting, Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Act, 2016 Act No. 22/2016	To enable the regulator to grant to any promoter, a licence to carry out track betting in prescribed geographic areas.
5.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Act, 2016 Act No. 15/2016	To amend the Act to facilitate the implementation of the Cash Based International Public Sector Standards in Central Government by April 2016, and to allow for the new timeline of 31 March 2019 for achieving the targeted Wage/GDP ratio.
6.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Financial Services Commission (Amendment) Act, 2016 Act No. 16/2016	To amend the Act to allow the Financial Services Commission to borrow sums required to meet any obligations or carry out any of its functions
7.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Jamaica Racing Commission (Amendment) Act, 2016 Act No. 23/2016	To enable the Government of Jamaica to grant geographic exclusivity to the holders of Racing Promoter's Licences.
8.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 2016 Act No. 21/2016	To repeal and replace the Seventh Schedule to further provide for income tax incentives to companies listed on the Junior Stock Market.
9.		Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The International Corporate and Trust Services Providers Act, 2017	To regulate persons who would provide international corporate services and international trust services.
10.		Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	The Children (Guardianship and Custody) (Amendment) Act, 2017	To implement obligations under the Hague Convention.

Categories

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1. Passed | 2 Before Parliament | 3 Approved by Cabinet for Tabling |
| 4 Before Legislation Committee | | 5 Being drafted |
| 6 Drafting Instructions Issued | | 7 Cabinet approval of drafting instructions |

PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2016/2017 AS AT FEBRUARY 2017

PASSED IN PARLIAMENT				
No .	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
			Act No. 2/2017	
11.		Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	The Jamaica Agricultural Commodity Regulatory Authority Act, 2017 Act No. 1/2017	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.
12.		Ministry of Justice	The Interpretation (Amendment) Act, 2016 Act No. 14/2016	To provide that, in relation to penalties for offences in Regulations, unless an Act otherwise provides, the maximum fine should be increased from one thousand dollars to one million dollars.
13.		Ministry of Justice	The Jury (Amendment) Act, 2016 Act No. 13/2016	To provide for a verdict of not less than five jurors for non-capital murder, thereby correcting the existing anomaly that only unanimous verdicts would be acceptable in trials for non-capital murders; and that, where offences were being joined which arose out of the same facts but were subject to differing sentencing regimes, the number of peremptory challenges allowed would be four.
14.		Ministry of Justice	The Law Reform (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Restorative Justice) Act, 2016 Act No. 20/2016	To amend the Criminal Justice (Reform) Act, the Child Care and Protection Act, the Corrections Act and the Parole Rules to provide for the implementation of restorative justice procedures in the formal justice system.
15.		Ministry of Justice	The Law Revision (Amendment) Act, 2016 Act No. 17/16	To establish a set number of persons who may be appointed as Statute Law Commissioners, and to impose fixed term limits for the tenure of Commissioners.
16.		Ministry of Labour and Social Security	The National Insurance (Amendment) Act, 2016 Act No. 18/2016	To increase the frequency of actuarial reviews of the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) to enable effective review and analysis of the fiscal conditions of the National Insurance Fund (NIF)
17.		Ministry of National Security	The Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Act, 2016 Act No. 19/2016	To substitute the words 'Commissioner of Lands' for the words 'Commissioner of Land Valuation'.

Categories

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1. Passed | 2 Before Parliament | 3 Approved by Cabinet for Tabling |
| 4 Before Legislation Committee | | 5 Being drafted |
| 6 Drafting Instructions Issued | | 7 Cabinet approval of drafting instructions |

PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2016/2017 AS AT FEBRUARY 2017

3

TABLED IN PARLIAMENT				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
18.	1	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Constitution (Amendment)(Established Fund) (Payment of Pensions) Bill	To amend the Constitution to provide for the payment of pensions, gratuities and allowances out of the pensions fund which will be established by the Pensions (Public Service) Act, 2016.
19.	2	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Pensions (Public Service) Bill	To reform the arrangements for public sector pensions.
20.	3	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Public Debt Management (Amendment) Bill	To make certain provisions of the Act more detailed and more consistent with international and local standards and conform to other Acts, and to empower the Minister to appoint the Bank of Jamaica to act as the fiscal agent for the Government.
21.	4	Ministry of Justice	Arbitration Bill	To repeal and replace the Arbitration Act, 1900 with more modern legislation that was intended to provide an effective non-judicial mechanism for settling disputes between contracting parties, and to adopt the provisions of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law.
22.	5	Ministry of Justice	Integrity Commission (Amendment) Bill	To establish a Single Anti-Corruption Body
23.	6	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Building Bill	To improve the efficiency of the building approval process and provide a framework for the effective management of the building industry.
24.	7	Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	Local Governance (Amendment) Bill;	To provide for how boundaries of a City Municipality were to be altered, that Councillors elected to a City Municipality shall not sit on the Municipal Corporation of that parish, and related matters.
25.	8	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Caribbean Maritime University Bill	To establish the Caribbean Maritime Institute as a university so as to strengthen the power of the entity to confer degrees, awards, certificates, diplomas and other academic distinctions.
26.	9	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Road Traffic Bill	To repeal and replace the current Road Traffic Act and Regulations (1938) and Companion Acts and Regulations; and to establish the Island Traffic Authority as a statutory body.
27.	10	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Transport Authority (Collection of Fees) (Validation and Indemnity) Bill	To validate and confirm the fees collected in good faith by the Transport Authority during the period 1 December 1989 to the commencement of the legislation.

Categories

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1. Passed | 2 Before Parliament | 3 Approved by Cabinet for Tabling |
| 4 Before Legislation Committee | | 5 Being drafted |
| 6 Drafting Instructions Issued | | 7 Cabinet approval of drafting instructions |

PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2016/2017 AS AT FEBRUARY 2017

4

APPROVED BY CABINET FOR TABLING				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
28.	1	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.

BEFORE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
29.	1	Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport	Sexual Harassment Bill	To address concerns surrounding sexual harassment in general, and in particular, in the workplace.
30.	2	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Casino Gaming (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Casino Gaming Act to clarify and remove any ambiguity relating to the granting of a temporary casino gaming licence, and remove inconsistencies in the provisions of the Act.
31.	3	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Customs (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Customs Act to facilitate the observance and implementation of international best practices and standards, and assist in providing a framework for the fast movement of goods through the ports.
32.	4	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	The Tax Collection (Amendment) Bill; The Property Tax (Amendment) Bill; The Land Valuation (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Acts to assist in maximising property tax revenue and facilitate the legitimate recognition of the part played by Local Government in the administration of property taxes.
33.	5	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	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.

Categories

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1. Passed | 2 Before Parliament | 3 Approved by Cabinet for Tabling |
| 4 Before Legislation Committee | | 5 Being drafted |
| 6 Drafting Instructions Issued | | 7 Cabinet approval of drafting instructions |

PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2016/2017 AS AT FEBRUARY 2017

BILL BEING DRAFTED				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
34.	1	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Facilities for Titles (Amendment) Bill	To improve the framework, use the adjudication process under this Act to assist in resolving root of title issues for land owners who have no documentary proof of ownership, and update penalties.
35.	2	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Registration of Titles Cadastral Mapping and Tenure Clarification (Special Provisions) (Amendment) Bill	To improve the legislative framework and address issues pertaining to root of titles, and enable more land owners to apply to register their land.
36.	3	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information	Council of Community Colleges (Validation and Amendment) Bill	To make express provision empowering the Council to grant and confer certificates, diplomas, degrees and other academic awards.
37.	4	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information	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.
38.	5	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information	Jamaica Tertiary Education Commission Bill	To provide for the establishment of a national oversight body for tertiary education in Jamaica (J-TEC).
39.	6	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information	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.
40.	7	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Microfinance Bill	To strengthen the legislative framework for money lending institutions and money service businesses.
41.	8	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Public Bodies Management and Accountability (Amendment) Bill Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Bill [includes amendment the constituent Acts of various statutory bodies]	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; PBMA to be amended to facilitate designation of CEO's of public bodies as Accounting Officers; and redefining Accounting Officer to allow for appointment of CEO's of public bodies.
42.	9	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Public Accountancy (Amendment) Bill	To improve and strengthen the effectiveness of the accountancy profession.

Categories

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1. Passed | 2 Before Parliament | 3 Approved by Cabinet for Tabling |
| 4 Before Legislation Committee | | 5 Being drafted |
| 6 Drafting Instructions Issued | | 7 Cabinet approval of drafting instructions |

PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2016/2017 AS AT FEBRUARY 2017

BILL BEING DRAFTED				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
43.	10	Ministry of Health	Opticians (Amendment) Bill	To modernise and properly regulate the industry.
44.	11	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.
45.	12	Ministry of Health	Registration (Birth and Death) Amendment Bill	To make provision for the compulsory registration of the names of unmarried fathers.
46.	13	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	Fishing Industry Bill	To repeal and replace existing Act for the better management of the fishing industry
47.	14	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
48.	15	Ministry of National Security	Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency Bill	To give effect to the establishment of a new law enforcement Agency (Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency)
49.	16	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
50.	17	Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology	Petroleum (Landing and Storage) Bill	To modernise and update the legislation.
51.	18	Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology	Petroleum (Quality Control) Bill	To review and amend the current licensing mechanisms and penalties associated with the Act to ensure appropriate enforcement of safety standards.
52.	19	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Maritime Labour Convention Bill	To give effect to the Maritime Labour Convention; and to amend related laws so as to provide for the right of seafarers to decent living and working standards on ships as well as the right to medical, care, repatriation, and social protection.

Categories

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1. Passed | 2 Before Parliament | 3 Approved by Cabinet for Tabling |
| 4 Before Legislation Committee | | 5 Being drafted |
| 6 Drafting Instructions Issued | | 7 Cabinet approval of drafting instructions |

PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2016/2017 AS AT FEBRUARY 2017

7

DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
53.	1	Ministry of Education, Youth and Information	Education (Amendment) Bill	To provide for consequential amendment to legislation to ensure alignment with the reforms recommended in the Task Force Report on Educational Reform (2004) under the Education System Transformation Programme.

CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
54.	1	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	Jamaica Promotions Corporation (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the issue of licences in relation to the Motion Picture Industry.
55.	2	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Professional Engineers Registration (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to address issues relating to registration, annual practising certificated and prescribed fees and penalties.
56.	3	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Bill	To enable a change in responsibility for the Special Economic Zones from the Ministry responsible for Industry to the Minister responsible for Special Economic Zones.
57.	4	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Assets Tax (Specified Bodies) (Amendment) Bill	To validate the collection of the Assets Tax, and indemnify the Government and all persons acting on behalf of the Government in collecting the Assets Tax.
58.	5	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	General Consumption Tax (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to facilitate an expanded deferment facility to include locally acquired packaging material sourced by certified manufacturers, to clarify the rate of interest applicable to arrears of taxes; to create a regime to treat with tax incurred prior to the commencement of the taxable activity and amend the First and Second Schedules.
59.	6	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Governor-General (Expenditure, Personal Staff, Tax Exemptions and Pensions)(Amendment) Bill	To establish a percentage differential between the salary of the office of the Governor-General and that of the Chief Justice.
60.	7	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Guest Accommodation Room Tax Bill	To validate the collect of, and enact permanent legislation to give effect to, the Guest Accommodation Room Tax, and to indemnify the Government and All persons who acted on behalf of the Government in collection thereof, and to amend the General Consumption Tax Act to exclude the Guest Accommodation Room Tax from the taxable base.

Categories

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1. Passed | 2 Before Parliament | 3 Approved by Cabinet for Tabling |
| 4 Before Legislation Committee | | 5 Being drafted |
| 6 Drafting Instructions Issued | | 7 Cabinet approval of drafting instructions |

PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2016/2017 AS AT FEBRUARY 2017

8

CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
61.	8	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, Transfer Tax (Amendment) Bill, Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the exemption of taxation in relation to the redemption, purchase or acquisition by other means by a listed company of its own shares.
62.	9	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	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.
63.	10	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	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.
64.	11	Ministry of Health	Mental Health (Amendment) Bill	To amend the Act to bring it into conformity with the Disabilities Act and international human rights standards, to allow for the reform of mental health service delivery, to make provision for forensic mental health services and to provide for additional sanctions for breaching the Act.
65.	12	Ministry of Justice	Constitution (Amendment) Bill	To provide for the appointment of temporary judges to the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal
66.	13	Ministry of Justice	Criminal Justice (Plea Negotiations and Agreements)(Amendment) Bill	To provide for the reform of law relating to plea negotiations and agreements.
67.	14	Ministry of Justice	Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill Evidence (Amendment) Bill	To enable drug samples and photographs of evidence to be received as evidence of large exhibits in Court Proceedings.
68.	15	Ministry of Justice	Independent Commission of Investigations (Amendment) Bill	To amend the act to implement the recommendations of the Joint Select committee of Parliament.
69.	16	Ministry of National Security	Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) (Amendment) Bill; Child Care and Protection (Amendment) Bill	To enable specific offences under the Acts to be tried without a Jury, and to amend the Child Care and Protect Act to increase the penalty for the sale or trafficking of children.

Categories

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1. Passed | 2 Before Parliament | 3 Approved by Cabinet for Tabling |
| 4 Before Legislation Committee | | 5 Being drafted |
| 6 Drafting Instructions Issued | | 7 Cabinet approval of drafting instructions |

PRIORITY LEGISLATION PROGRAMME 2016/2017 AS AT FEBRUARY 2017

9

CABINET APPROVAL OF DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS				
No.	#	MINISTRY	NAME OF LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
70.	17	Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology	Data Protection Bill	To implement a regime to protect the privacy of individuals in relation to personal data and regulate the collection, processing, keeping, use and disclosure of information relating to individuals.
71.	18	Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology	Telecommunications (Spectrum Regulatory Fees) (Validation and Indemnification) Bill	To validate and indemnify actions of the Spectrum Management Authority in charging regulatory fees in a manner not prescribed for the period April 2004 to March 2016.
72.	19	Ministry of Tourism	Tourist Board (Amendment) Bill	To transfer the licensing function from the Tourist Board to Ministry of Tourism and state explicit requirements for the licensing of a tourism enterprise.
73.	20	Ministry of Tourism	Tourism Workers Pension Scheme Bill	To establish a defined contribution pension scheme for tourism workers.
74.	21	Ministry of Transport and Mining	Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill	To comprehensively review the Act in order to strengthen the provisions in keeping with Jamaica's continued compliance with the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention, 1944).

Categories

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1. Passed | 2 Before Parliament | 3 Approved by Cabinet for Tabling |
| 4 Before Legislation Committee | | 5 Being drafted |
| 6 Drafting Instructions Issued | | 7 Cabinet approval of drafting instructions |