

A BILL

ENTITLED

AN ACT to Amend the Criminal Justice (Administration) Act.

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BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of Jamaica, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Representatives of Jamaica, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Criminal Justice (Administration) (Amendment) Act, 2025, and shall be read and construed as one with the Criminal Justice (Administration) Act (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act) and all amendments thereto.

Short title
and
construction.

Amendment
of section
42F of the
principal Act.

2. Section 42F of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “a term of life imprisonment shall be deemed to be a term of thirty years.” and substituting therefor the following—

“a term of life imprisonment shall be deemed to be a term of—

- (a) fifty years, where the offence is murder;
- (b) thirty years, where the offence is an offence other than murder.”.

Passed in the House of Representatives this 29th day of April, 2025.

JULIET HOLNESS

Speaker.

MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

A decision has been taken that Jamaica's peculiar reality—namely, an uncontrolled and unabated murder rate that ranks highest among 22 Latin American and Caribbean countries, the adverse impact on domestic safety and security, the reputational damage to Jamaica resulting therefrom and, by extension, the impact on the country's Gross Domestic Product—warrants a similarly distinctive approach and necessitates penalties that are especially punitive.

A decision has therefore been taken to amend the Criminal Justice (Administration) Act, in section 42F, to provide that, where the offence is murder, a term of life imprisonment shall be deemed to be a term of fifty years for the purposes of calculating a reduction of sentence pursuant to Part 1A of the Act, upon a plea of guilty by the defendant.

This Bill seeks to give effect to that decision and is a companion measure to the Bill shortly entitled the Offences Against the Person (Amendment) Act, 2025.

DELROY CHUCK
Minister of Justice.

ABILL

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(Administration) Act

As passed in the Honourable House of Representatives.

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