

# Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

## The 339<sup>th</sup> Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (November 2012 Regular Meeting)

### 1. Overview

The assembly steering committee and the 6 standing committees of the Miyagi Prefectural Assembly have been restructured. The Special Budget Committee will remain as is, the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster Restoration and Recovery Measures Investigation Special Committee will be restructured and 4 new special committees will be established.

#### 1. Session:

22<sup>nd</sup> November (Thu.) – 13<sup>th</sup> December (Thu.) 2012: 22 days

#### 2. Proposals:

Regulation Amending One Section of the Miyagi Prefectural Assembly Rules reviewed

#### 3. Bills Submitted by the Governor:

- i. The 2012 Miyagi Prefecture General Accounting Supplementary Budget, etc. (4 items)
- ii. Nuclear Fuel Tax Ordinance, etc. (41 items)
- iii. Appointment of a Designated Administrator, etc. (5 items)
- iv. Conclusion of construction service contracts, etc. (20 items)
- v. A Proposal seeking agreement related to the appointment of an Expropriation Committee Member (1 item)
- vi. Condolence Money Provision Board of Review duty consignment, etc. (4 items)

#### 4. Question Time:

16 assembly members posed general questions regarding the recovery budget fiscal year carry-over problem, support for disaster victims to rebuild homes and the reorganisation of secondary medical service areas.

#### 5. Bills Submitted by Assembly Members:

Proposal Seeking Long-term Enrolment in the National Insurance System

Proposal Seeking the Creation of Laws to Promote and Support Development of Medical Supplies for Orphan Diseases with Especially Few Sufferers

Proposal Seeking the Reinforcement of Financial Support Strategies Related to the SME Financing Facilitation Act

Proposal Seeking Special Measures against the Rising Cost of Fuel Products as well as the Realisation of Suitable Price and Stable Supply of Fuel Products

6. Petitions:  
4 items
7. Results:
- |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Resolutions                         | 1 item passed                        |
| Bills submitted by the governor     | 75 items passed and approved         |
| Bills submitted by assembly members | 4 items passed                       |
| Petitions                           | 3 items adopted (1 item not adopted) |

## 2. Main Details of the Assembly Question Time

### 1. Support for Disaster Victims in Rebuilding Their Homes

Enquiry: Regarding differences between support in and outside the disaster danger zone

Response: Each local government is providing support measures to remove this difference, but requests have been made to the national government for funds for municipal governments to promote necessary support measures from the perspective of fairness in terms of assistance to victims and securement of funds. We will continue to make these requests.

### 2. Group Subsidies to Support Disaster-Affected SMEs

Enquiry: Regarding the fact that there are many businesses that aren't able to start construction work after receiving subsidy money

Response: There are regions where coordination with municipalities needs to happen in regards to consistency with land usage plans and various disaster reconstruction projects, especially in coastal areas. Efforts will be made, working alongside related organisations, so that businesses can restart operations promptly.

### 3. Plan for Restructuring of the Medical District That Was Proposed as a Mid-Term Plan at the Miyagi Regional Medical Planning Policy Social

Enquiry: Regarding the plan to restructure the 5 medical districts in the northern region of Miyagi into 2 districts

Response: Restructuring was suggested from the perspective of utilising available medical resources as much as possible to promote separation of medical functionality and reinforce cooperation in the long-term. We believe that this initiative will be useful in allowing us to utilise the regional medical system and improve its general functionality.

### 4. The Establishment of Disaster Preparedness Courses

Enquiry: Regarding the establishment of disaster preparedness courses in prefectural run high-schools

Response: Taking into account our experiences with the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster, it is extremely important to foster children that have a high awareness of disaster preparedness, and that can fulfil various important roles in society when another natural disaster occurs in the future. We are aware that the Board of Education is discussing in detail working towards the establishment of such courses.

## 5. The Results of the 2008 Special Health Examination

Enquiry: Regarding the fact that Miyagi Prefecture was rated worst in the country for rates of metabolic syndrome

Response: We are proactively pushing health promotion policies aimed at helping people free themselves from metabolic syndrome through focusing on nutrition, food lifestyle, exercise and smoking in the second version of the Miyagi 21 Health Plan (being drafted).

## 3. Standing Committees

- i. General Affairs and Policy Planning Committee  
Bills were reviewed and voted on including the Fuel Tax Ordinance
- ii. Environment, Lifestyle and Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Industry Committee  
Bills were reviewed and voted on including the Ordinance Amending a Part of the Environment Assessment Ordinance
- iii. Health and Welfare Committee  
Bills were reviewed and voted on including the Ordinance that Establishes Standards Related to Hospital/Clinic Staff and Facilities
- iv. Commerce, Industry and Tourism Committee  
Bills were reviewed and voted on including the Ordinance that Establishes Standards Related to Occupational Training
- v. Construction Enterprise Committee  
Bills were reviewed and voted on including the Ordinance Establishing Technical Standards of the Structure of Prefectural Roadways
- vi. Education and Public Safety Committee  
Bills reviewed and voted on including the Ordinance Amending a Part of the Prefectural Schools Ordinance

## 4. Special Committees

In order that the Special Committee for the Survey of Earthquake Disaster Restoration and Recovery Measures may implement their activities in a streamlined fashion, the total number of assembly members has been reduced to 15. Aside from that, 4 special committees have been established to survey and consider important issues faced by the prefectural government.

Newly-Established Special Committees:

- i. The Renewable Energy Survey Special Committee  
Matters to be discussed: Policies related to renewable energy
- ii. Medical Issue Survey Special Committee  
Matters to be discussed: Policies related to medical issues
- iii. Childcare Environment Survey Special Committee  
Matters to be discussed: Policies related to childcare

iv. Stable Employment and Regional Industry Promotion Research Special Committee

Matters to be discussed: Policies related to employment and regional industry promotion

**5. Miscellaneous**

Requests for Group Subsidies (30<sup>th</sup> October 2012)

Requests were made related to Restoration and Improvement Subsidy Projects for Small and Medium-Sized Business Group Facilities:

1. Issuance of group subsidies to all members of the requesting side
2. Requests concerning 2 points regarding flexibility in measures for carrying forward of group subsidies

In response to this, related government ministries provided 80,100,000,000 yen using funds from reserve funds provided by recent economic policies. The majority of this figure will be issued to Miyagi Prefecture. For persons not covered by the additional measures, alternative measures through the 2013 Budget will be considered.