

Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

The 341th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (June 2013 Regular Meeting)

1. Overview

1. Session: June 14th (Fri.) - July 8th (Mon.) 2013: 25 days

2. Assembly Suggestions Total: 5

- I. “Proposal for the pursuance of bolstering and improvement of regional government finances”
- II. “Proposal for the pursuance of establishing adequate and sounder basic management framework of the current nursing care insurance system”
- III. “Proposal for the pursuance of accelerating the implementation of specific policies and programs based on the ‘Disaster Affected Persons and Children Welfare Support Act’”
- IV. “Proposal for the pursuance of extensive anti-water pollution measures, including those concerning radioactive waste”
- V. “Proposal for the pursuance of comprehensive measures in order to preclude local municipalities from bearing the economic burden of the disposal of temporary shop and project facilities.”

3. Bills Submitted by the Governor Total: 51

- 2013 Miyagi fiscal year general accounting supplementary budget revisions, etc. (5 items)
- Children and child-care assembly ordinances, etc. (22 items)
- The charter amendment of the Miyagi Prefectural Hospital Organization (3 items)
- In regards to the finalization of construction sub-contracting contracts, etc. (16 items)
- In regards to the pursuance of permission for independent management authority (3 items)
- In regards to the pursuance of consensus for the nomination members to the personnel committee (2 items)

4. Petitions Total: 1

- “In regards to the pursuance of exemption of the medical/nursing expenses for the disaster affected”.....Adopted

5. Questions & Inquiries

16 assembly members made general inquiries into city and town planning and employment policies aimed at assuring a smooth transition to the reconstruction stage from the restoration stage in disaster-affected areas.

6. Supplementary Opinions Total: 1

- Ordinance in regards to the extraordinary provision of wages to government staff and, among

others, the governor:

We at the Miyagi Assembly believe that the national government demands for the reduction of government staff wages are utterly unsatisfactory for the following reasons: 1.) they do not take into account the efforts up until now of local municipalities to reduce personnel expenditure, simply basing their demands on solely one fiscal year national comparison, when in fact such wages are regularly decided autonomously; and 2.) the federal government's use of the reduction of regional federal financial support, an established source of regional government income, to request the lowering of wages. From the next fiscal year onward, in order to prevent such measures, we call for strong action to be taken via the national assembly of governors.

7. Results:

Assembly Suggestions	5 items approved
Bills Submitted by the Governor	51 items passed and approved
Petitions	1 item adopted

2. Main Details of the Assembly Inquiry Session

1. In regards to future town planning and public temporary housing for the disaster affected:

- Inquiry: Please tell us about efforts such as the vitalization of temporary shopping arcades and the situation of temporary housing for the disaster affected.
- Reply: We continue to continue take opinion polls of the disaster-affected victims and are securing the necessary facilities to make sure that those who wish to move into public housing can. We are also providing support of the renovation of temporary shopping arcades and utilizing the increased options for group subsidies.

2. In regards to policies for post-debris disposal employment:

- Inquiry: Please tell us about the present employment situation and policies for re-employment support.
- Reply: Out of the currently 3,600 employed for debris disposal 2,300 of those workers are from within the prefecture. The prefecture will support those with heavy machinery handling permits etc. so that they can find work in every still recovering industrial field, while other workers will be given support by connecting them to Hello Work (the National Government Employment Service Center) and businesses with which the government has contracted work with.

3. In regards to children waiting to enter preschools:

- Inquiry: Please tell us about how things look on the governor's promise to get rid of the waiting list for children waiting to get into preschools.
- Reply: We are moving forward with renovation of nurseries and, along with plans to increase the capacity of present nurseries, are setting up a registry of preschool caretakers in order to support an increase in caretakers.

4. In regards to disaster preparedness education for the young:

- Inquiry: Please tell us about efforts to improve disaster preparedness, which is still necessary for the prefecture's recovery.
- Reply: In order that such loss of life never occurs again, we are doing all we can to revamp our disaster preparedness system and disaster preparedness education. Based on the "Miyagi Schools Basic Safety Policy," we endeavor to foster in students the ability to act swiftly in case of a disaster and an awareness of contributing to the community and region's safety.

5. Please tell us about the prefecture's tourism recovery project:

- Inquiry: Can we ask Mr. Kankuro Kudo, who also acts as the "Miyagi Dream Ambassador," to assist in offering ideas on Miyagi Prefecture's Tourism Plan?
- Reply: Kankuro Kudo is actively performs as both a musician and actor and is certainly a talented individual. We definitely intend to ask him to offer any fresh or humorous idea's he might have.

3. Standing Committees

1. General Affairs and Policy Planning Committee:

- Proposals, including "Amendment to Part of the Ordinance on the Set Amount of Staff Employees," was passed and adopted.

2. Environment, Lifestyle and Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Industry Committee:

- Yamamoto Town and other areas have been surveyed on the revival of strawberry farming and establishment of its regional brand goods.
- The amendments, including that of the "Partial Revision of Management and Protection of Animals" was passed and ratified.

3. Health and Welfare Committee:

- Surveys were conducted in regards to support for mental health care for disaster victims and support for hearing impaired disaster victims at facilities such as Miyagi's Mental Health Care Center.
- The "Children and Childcare Assembly Ordinance" was passed and ratified.

4. Commerce, Industry and Tourism Committee:

- Surveys were conducted in and around Shiogama City on poor public opinion and rumors due to the Great East Japan Earthquake.
- The proposals including that of the "Ordinance to Partially Amend the Ordinance of the Miyagi Exhibition Center" was passed and ratified.

5. Construction Enterprise Committee

- Surveys on the restoration plans in the disaster affected cities and progress of disaster recovery plans were conducted in the areas of Onagawa Town, Wakuya Town and Ishinomaki City.
- The proposal for the finalization of construction sub-contracting contracts of the general prefectural roads, including construction of the Oshima-Namiita line's Isokusa Tunnel, was passed and ratified.

6. Education and Public Safety Committee

- A survey was conducted prefectures such as Kumamoto in regards to issues such as the deterrence of sex crimes and the Kumamoto Home Education Support Ordinance.
- The proposals, including the "Partial Reform of the Prefectural School Ordinance" was passed and ratified.

4. Special Committees

1. Special Budget Committee

On July 1st of 2013, a question and answer session comprised of 11 committee members was held. Afterwards the 2013 Fiscal Year General Accounting Supplementary Budget was ratified after undergoing review by all committees.

5. Miscellaneous

1. A Request to TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company):

The Miyagi Prefectural Assembly visited the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) Fukushima Recovery Headquarters and, in regards to damage resulting from rumors and bad publicity owing to the nuclear plant accident, requested swift, adequate clean-up and restitution measures.