

The 353rd Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (September 2015 Regular Session)

1) Session: September 3, 2015 (Thursday) to October 5, 2015 (Monday), 33 days

2) Outline

The 353rd Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (September 2015 regular session) was held over a period of 33 days from September 3 to October 5, 2015. 47 bills were approved in their original forms, including a bill to allocate an additional 2.248 billion JPY for the FY2015 general account supplementary budget (to fund research design in order to temporarily preserve the Minamisanriku Town Disaster Countermeasures Building), bills proposed by the assembly members including the “Miyagi Children and Child-rearing Citizens Ordinance” and the “Miyagi Prefecture Drug Abuse Prevention Ordinance” and items related to the Miyagi Prefecture Regional Revitalization Comprehensive Strategy.

Discussions were actively carried out with the prefecture during the representative and general inquiries regarding the Miyagi Prefecture Regional Revitalization Comprehensive Strategy, disaster prevention collective relocation, disaster public housing, and disaster measures related to the heavy rain on September 10 and 11.

3) Bills Voted On

(1) Motions (total): 2

- Miyagi Children and Child-rearing Citizens Ordinance
- Miyagi Prefecture Drug Abuse Prevention Ordinance

(2) Proposals (total): 2

- Enhance and strengthen subsidy program for private schools
- Disaster prevention related to the September 2015 Kanto and Tohoku Heavy Rain, etc.

(3) Bills Submitted by the Governor (total): 41

- FY2015 Miyagi Prefecture general account supplementary budget
- FY2014 Miyagi Prefecture general account settlement and special account settlement authorization, etc.

(4) Supplementary proposals (total): 1

- Regarding the development of a basic plan for the prefectural government administration (Miyagi Prefecture Regional Revitalization Strategy)

“In order to advance the development of this plan, it is important to take into consideration the situation of the local municipalities and the local region and fully recognize the issues in the prefecture.”

(5) Petitions (total): 3

- Petition to submit proposals to the national government and Diet in regards to subsidies for private schools (approved)
- Petition to promote high school enrollment for those who completed compulsory education and surpass high school student age (approved)
- Petition to implement a 35-student or less class system for all grades in elementary and junior high schools (not approved)

4) Main Content of Representative and General Inquiries Asked during the Assembly

1. Miyagi Prefecture Regional Revitalization Comprehensive Strategy

The prefecture strives to accelerate and increase the effectiveness of the earthquake disaster recovery plan by utilizing various support available through the national government's regional revitalization fund. The Miyagi Prefecture Regional Revitalization Promotion Task Force was established and suggestions from the review team made up of young government staff are reflected in the strategy.

2. Disaster collective relocation project and disaster public housing construction

The completion of the disaster prevention collective relocation project and land readjustment project is scheduled for FY2020. The completion of all disaster public housing construction is scheduled for FY2017.

3. Homecoming support for residents who evacuated outside the prefecture

The prefecture has collaborated with local municipalities to share information on the current recovery situation at evacuee exchange events and to offer individual consultation in regards to rebuilding private homes. A publication is sent out to all households each month to explain the various support systems in place. The Miyagi Evacuees Homecoming Support Center has been established in 5 different locations throughout Japan, and the prefecture plans to continue improving and strengthening the support system.

4. Small and mid-sized enterprise promotion policies

The prefecture will develop a basic plan based on the Small and Mid-sized Enterprise and Small-scale Business Promotion Ordinance by the end of this fiscal year. The prefecture will also collaborate with small and mid-sized enterprise support organizations, research institutions, financial institutions and other organizations in its efforts to promote management innovation for small and mid-sized enterprises and creation of projects.

5. Support for heavy rain damage

In relation to the agricultural industry, irrigation measures are being carried out in order to promptly resolve the flooding, and a consultation service is available to help prevent obstacles when farming resumes.

6. Designated waste

In regards to dispersed storage, the nature of the designated waste in the prefecture is not stable and it is difficult to store this waste safely over a long period. The national government has said that a disposal site should be established and the waste should be quickly disposed of.

5) Regarding the Activities of the Prefectural Assembly in Relation to the Restoration and Reconstruction Efforts

The Earthquake Disaster Restoration and Reconstruction Measures Special Review Committee invited Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, Inc. (TEPCO) to the prefecture on August 4 to hold a hearing on the nuclear power plant accident compensation and contaminated water issues. On August 19, Assembly Chairperson Ando and the committee visited the TEPCO Fukushima Revitalization Headquarters to submit the "Request for a swift and sufficient damage compensation for harmful rumors and swift complete convergence of the nuclear accident" document to Mr. Ishizaki, representative of the Fukushima Revitalization Headquarters.