

Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

The Process of Deciding on Bills

1. Convening of Assembly The governor will convene the Assembly
2. Assembly Procedure To be decided by the Assembly Steering Committee
(decision making body for matters related to assembly procedure, composed of 12 assembly members)
3. Plenary Session Assembly's final decision making procedure:
Opening of Plenary Session → Decision on Session →
Explanation of Bills → Question Time →
Committee Referral → Standing Committee Review →
Report from Committee → Debate → Vote →
Adjournment of Assembly

The 327th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (June 2010 regular meeting)

1. Overview

1. Session

June 15 (Tues.) to June 30 (Wed.), 2010 – 16 days

2. Bills Submitted by the Governor

- i. 9 items including the Ordinance Amending a Part of the Miyagi Prefectural Tax Ordinance and the Prefectural Tax Reduction and Exemption Ordinance
- ii. 6 items including the conclusion of contracts to change construction contractors
- iii. 3 matters related to personnel affairs including the appointment of the new vice governor

3. Question Time

15 assembly members asked questions related to the prefectural government including how Miyagi Environmental Tax funds are spent

4. Bills Submitted by Assembly Members : 6 items

5. Petitions: 1 item

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6. Decisions | Items Submitted by the Governor: | 18 items passed, approved, ratified |
| | Items Submitted by Assembly Members: | 6 items passed |
| | Petitions: | 1 item voted on |

2. Main Details of the Assembly Question Time

1. Miyagi Environmental Tax

Question from Assembly Member: Regarding how Miyagi Environmental Tax funds are spent

Response from Office in Charge: Spending will be organised under the “Miyagi Green Strategy” (temporary name) in autumn and is reported to the Miyagi Prefecture Environment Council every year.

2. Foot-and-Mouth Disease Countermeasures and Livestock Industry Promotion

Question from Assembly Member: Regarding Miyagi Prefecture’s disease prevention and crisis management systems

Response from Office in Charge: We are in the process of considering reviewing the foot-and-mouth disease preventative measures practice manual, listing up possible burial sites for destroyed livestock and the dispersion management of seed bulls

3. Agricultural Industry Promotion Measures

Question from Assembly Member: Regarding Miyagi Prefecture’s agricultural industry promotion measures

Response from Office in Charge: We created the “Agri-Business Management Foundation Strengthening Facilities Plan” using Miyagi Development Tax funds and are providing support in both tangible and intangible ways.

4. Social Welfare Facilities

Question from Assembly Member: Regarding the privatisation of social welfare facilities

Response from Office in Charge: We decided to privatise in order to utilise the management resources of the private sector to provide even more effective facility management and high quality service

5. Sendai Airport

Question from Assembly Member: Regarding the functional enhancement of Sendai Airport and maintenance policies of the surrounding area

Response from Office in Charge: We are aiming to introduce a broad transport network as the air gateway to the skies of Tohoku and promote the usage of the Sendai Airport Access Railway line

6. Tuition Free High School System

Question from Assembly Member: Regarding the prefecture’s decision to collect tuition fees from students repeating a year and students who graduated without paying fees

Response from Office in Charge: Taking into account the purpose of the law stipulating the fairness of students’ financial burden, with the exception of unavoidable cases, we have decided to collect tuition fees from these students

3. Reviews and Surveys Carried out by Standing Committees

1. Overview of Standing Committees

In order for bills (submitted by assembly members or governor) and petitions to be expertly reviewed, there are 6 standing committees (general affairs and policy planning committee, environment and lifestyle committee, health and welfare committee, industry and economy committee, construction enterprise committee, education and public safety committee) and each assembly member is a member of one of them. The committees decide on whether they agree with or oppose the reviewed bill. The election of the committee chairperson and vice-chairperson and the reviewing of bills occurred at the June 2010 regular meeting.

- i. General Affairs and Policy Planning Committee
Ordinance Amending a Part of the Miyagi Prefectural Tax Ordinance and the Prefectural Tax Reduction and Exemption Ordinance reviewed and voted on
- ii. Environment and Lifestyle Committee
Petitions including one related to the designation of rifle training ranges reviewed and voted on
- iii. Health and Welfare Committee
Questions related to reports from the office in charge including one relating to the privatisation of prefectural social welfare facilities
- iv. Industry and Economy Committee
Bills related to the disposition of property owned by the prefecture reviewed and voted on
- v. Construction Enterprise Committee
Bills including one related to the conclusion of contracts to change contractors working on restoring roads damaged by natural disaster reviewed and voted on
- vi. Education and Public Safety Committee
Bills such as the Ordinance Amending a Part of the Miyagi Prefectural High School Future Plan Committee Ordinance reviewed and voted on

4. Ad Hoc Committees

1. Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee

Established by assembly vote in order to expertly review and investigate especially important issues. The duration of an ad hoc committee will be from the day of its establishment until the day before the adjournment of the first assembly meeting convened the next fiscal year.

2. Committees Established at the June 2010 Regular Meeting

- i. Budget Ad Hoc Committee
- ii. Prefectural Investment Organisation Investigation Ad Hoc Committee
- iii. Aging Society Welfare Measures Investigation Ad Hoc Committee
- iv. Food and Tourism Measures Investigation Ad Hoc Committee
- v. New Farmer Training and Livestock Rearing Promotional Measures Investigation Ad Hoc Committee
- vi. New Industry Promotion and Employment Ad Hoc Committee