

Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

The 328th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (September 2010 Regular Meeting)

1. Overview

1. Session

September 17 (Fri.) to October 19 (Tues.) 2010 – 33 days

2. Bills submitted by the Governor

- i. 12 items including the 2010 Miyagi Prefecture General Accounting Supplementary Budget
- ii. 10 items including amendments to the Basic Plan related to the promotion of private groups non-profit activities
- iii. 2 matters related to personnel affairs including the appointment of a Board of Education Committee member

3. Question Time

2 assembly members posed questions related to prefectural government matters such as employment conditions.

16 assembly members posed general questions

4. Bills Submitted by Assembly Members: 7 items

5. Petitions: 3 items

6. Bills Submitted by Committees: 2 items

7. Decisions:
- Bills Submitted by Governor: 24 items passed, approved, ratified
 - Bills Submitted by Assembly Members: 7 items passed
 - Petitions: 3 items adopted
 - Bills Submitted by Committees: 7 items passed

2. Main Details of the Assembly Question Time

1. Job Creation

Question: Regarding the difficult employment situation in Miyagi prefecture

Response: Work to grasp the Re-Employment Support Plan and promote the acceptance of employees to economic organisations and related companies. Carry out support utilising Re-employment Financial Incentives in order to quickly establish a stable system of re-employment.

2. Regarding Izunuma and Uchinuma, wetlands registered in the Ramsar Convention

Question: Regarding efforts to restore nature and attract tourists

Response: Aim for a range of goals such as putting effort into preserving the environment and tourist attraction drives utilising seasonal attractions.

3. Regional Sovereignty Reforms

Question: Regarding assessment of regional sovereignty reforms that the national government is discussing.

Response: Assess the fact that the national government approved the Regional Sovereignty Reform Strategy General Outline in a cabinet meeting. Anticipate the realisation of decentralisation of power from the central government to local governments.

4. Miyagi Environmental Tax

Question: Regarding the use of Miyagi Environmental Tax Funds.

Response: Project will be arranged under the Miyagi Green Strategy Plan. Support for the introduction of solar energy generation for use in residences is being considered.

5. Regarding Special Nursing Homes for the Elderly

Question: Regarding the maintenance of special nursing homes for the elderly specific to regional conditions.

Response: Make requests to the national government so that flexible maintenance can be carried out regionally.

6. Regarding Independence Education

Question: Regarding the objectives and method of promoting "Independence Education" which exists to foster an environment where children can focus on the roles they are expected to fulfil in society and learn independently.

Response: In the Education Promotion Basic Plan, there is an objective to raise the number of people participating in experience based activities and internships to 250,000 in 4 years. In order to develop independence education effectively and smoothly in schools from next year, an Independence Education Plan is in the process of being drafted.

3. Reviews and Surveys Carried out by Standing Committees

1. Overview of Standing Committees

Bills and petitions etc. were reviewed in the September 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

Amendments to the Basic Plan related to the promotion of private groups non-profit activities etc. reviewed and voted on

iii. Health and Welfare Committee

Bills reviewed and voted on including one related to the acquisition of property (influenza medicine)

iv. Industry and Economy Committee

Bills such as the written opinion related to emergency rice supply and demand adjustment counter-measures reviewed and voted on

v. Construction Enterprise Committee

Bills including one related to the conclusion of construction contracts reviewed and voted on

vi. Education and Public Safety Committee

Bills such as the Ordinance Amending a Part of the Miyagi Prefectural High School Ordinance reviewed and voted on

4. Special Committees

An Account Settlement Special Committee was established on the 4th October 2010.

1. Special Budget Committee

General budget deliberations and a separate meeting review regarding the 2010 Miyagi Prefecture General Accounting Supplementary Budget were carried out

2. Account Settlement Special Committee

General budget deliberations and a separate meeting review regarding the 2009 Miyagi Prefecture General Account Settlement, Special Account Settlement and Public Enterprise Account Settlement Bill were carried out