

# Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

## The 362<sup>nd</sup> Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (November 2017 Regular Session)

1) Session: November 24, 2017 (Wed.) to December 14, 2017 (Fri.), 21 days

### 2) Outline

The 362<sup>nd</sup> Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (November 2017 regular session) was held over a period of 21 days from November 24 to December 14, 2017. 59 bills were approved in their original forms, including the bill to add a total of 32.381 billion JPY to the general account supplementary budget.

During this session, Prefectural Member Tsukumo Tadano was elected to succeed former Vice-Chairman Yoichi Hasegawa.

In the general inquiries, lively discussions were held on topics such as support for victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake, disposal methods of waste contaminated by radioactive material from the TEPCO Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant incident, and industrial development.

### 3) Bills Voted On

1. Motions (total): 1

- Motion to amend part of the regulations regarding remuneration of Miyagi Prefectural Assembly members

2. Resolutions (total): 1

- Resolution to support Osaka/Kansai's bid for 2025 World Expo

3. Proposals (total): 4

- Proposal to revise the Wholesale Market Law with careful consideration
- Proposal for more comprehensive nursing & welfare policies
- Proposal for early establishment of Forest Environmental Tax (temporary name), etc.

4. Bills Submitted by the Governor (total): 55

- FY 2017 Miyagi Prefecture General Account Supplementary Budget
- Nuclear fuel tax ordinance, etc.

5. Petitions (total): 3

- Petition to submit proposal requesting that the national government and Diet reconsider drastic reforms to the Wholesale Market Law based on the Agriculture Competitiveness Reinforcement Program (approved)
- Petition regarding raising subsidy amount for private schools (approved)
- Petition regarding reinforcing subsidies for private high schools (approved)

### 4) Summary of Representative and General Inquiries Made During the Assembly

1. Rent Reduction for Disaster Public Housing

A request for extension is being made to the national government. The national government has indicated that it may be difficult to give an extension. The prefecture will continue holding discussions with local municipalities. For municipalities that are considering rent reduction once again, the prefecture will provide

the necessary support in establishing a system.

## 2. Attracting Foreign Visitors to Japan

DMOs will prioritize initiatives related to making comprehensive access signs and increasing tourists' length of stay. Through DMO activities such as the creation of regional tourism products, efforts will focus on making arrangements that are profitable for the region.

In addition to current initiatives, the prefecture will also strategically target affluent American and European tourists by hosting booths at American/European travel expos and promoting to overseas travel companies.

## 3. Change in Governor's Opinion Regarding National Standard Designated Waste

Disposal of designated waste is the national government's responsibility. The following is just the governor's personal opinion on the matter. By the time the amount of agricultural and forestry waste below designation standards has decreased to reasonable levels, the amount of designated waste that needs long-term storage will also have decreased, making it possible that the prefecture will not need to build a final disposal site.

## 4. Industrial Development Using AI

The prefecture is striving to incorporate improvements for management efficiency, environmental control, remote control of water management, and other initiatives. By cooperating with research institutions and private companies, the prefecture will engage in initiatives that allow agriculture to continue to develop. In industries that already have some accumulation, such as the automotive and advanced electronic machinery industries, the market is expected to continue expanding. The aircraft and medical device industries are also promising fields.

## 5. Countermeasures for Marine Product Processing Industry

The prefecture will continue to provide support for lodging accommodations and productivity improvement to help with the lack of personnel. The prefecture will consider countermeasures as necessary such as funding for raw materials.

## 5) Regarding Committees

In the November 2017 regular session, the assembly-run committees and permanent committees were reorganized, and the five special committees listed below were established.

1. Earthquake Disaster Recovery Special Committee
2. Bullying and School Absenteeism Special Committee
3. Sports Promotion Special Committee
4. Comprehensive Tourism Strategy Special Committee
5. Persons with Disabilities Welfare Special Committee