

Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

The 345th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (January 2014 Special Session)

1. Session: January 16(Thur.) - January 17 (Fri.), 2014 (2 days)
2. Bills Voted On
Bills Submitted by Governor (total): 11 (including “Conclusion of Construction Contract (Yoriiso Fisheries Cooperative Seawall Disaster Restoration Construction, stage 2))

The 346th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (February 2014 Regular Session)

1. Session: February 18 (Tue.) to March 20 (Fri.), 2014 (31 days)
2. Bills Voted On
 - (1) Proposals (total): 9
 - ① Measures for food safety and security
 - ② Introduction of multipurpose vessels for times of disaster
 - ③ Selection of land to construct designated final waste treatment plant and others
 - (2) Voted and Approved Bills Submitted by the Governor (total): 155
 - FY2014 Miyagi Prefecture General Account Budget and others
 - (3) Petitions (total): 3
 - “Submitting a proposal to the national government and Diet in regards to landslide prevention measures and other issues for the (uninhabited) Urato Islands in Shiogama City” petition: Adopted
 - “Improving medical fee subsidy system for viral hepatitis patients” petition: Adopted
 - “Request to improve the safety of medical care, nursing and regional medical care” petition: Not adopted
 - (4) Supplementary Proposals (total): 1
 - FY2014 Miyagi Prefecture General Account Budget
The prefecture should further speed up the construction of disaster public housing, collaborate closely with local municipalities regarding regional disaster prevention hub, and make efforts to implement projects with the understanding of the prefecture’s citizens.
3. Main Content of Inquiries and Questions Asked During the Assembly
Two prefectural assembly members represented the assembly and asked “representative inquiries” in regards to disaster recovery, budget composition, industry, education, establishment of a new medical department and other issues. Twenty assembly members asked “general inquiries.”
 - (1) FY2014 Initial Budget:
 - Inquiry: How are efforts to achieve a prosperous Miyagi Prefecture connected with the disaster recovery efforts?
 - Response: Priority is placed on accelerating the restoration and reconstruction policies, and on improving the new policies established to achieve a radical recovery that includes creative recovery efforts. The prefecture will proactively reflect efforts that need to be carried out swiftly.
 - (2) Regarding Public Housing:
 - Inquiry: Please explain the measures taken for securing land in light of rising land prices and lack of manpower.
 - Response: Measures for securing land will be made by public acquisition and lease of land and buildings used by the private sector. In response to the lack of manpower, the progress of work for land preparation including land surface improvement will be adjusted accordingly.

(3) Establishment of a New Medical Department

• Inquiry: Was there not a framework for establishing the new medical department as a prefectural government institution?

• Response: Fees for constructing a new campus and affiliated hospital were expected to be substantial, as well as the ongoing costs of operation. The prefecture will support the establishment of a new medical department based on the framework of the two universities in the prefecture.

(4) Regarding the Fishing Industry Distribution Facility

Inquiry: What is the progress and restoration situation of the fishing ports?

Response: Work has begun on all 27 fishing ports managed by the prefectural government. 80% of fishing vessels, farm facilities, etc. has been restored.

(5) Improving Academic Ability

Inquiry: Please explain the analysis carried out on the results from the National Assessment of Academic Ability Survey and efforts to improve academic ability.

Response: The prefecture is working together with the local municipal boards of education to improve the quality of teaching.

4. Standing Committee

(1) General Affairs and Policy Planning Committee

- 14 items were reviewed and voted on, including the ordinance to amend the service fee ordinance

(2) Environment, Lifestyle and Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Industry Committee

- 33 bills and 1 petition reviewed and voted on, including changes to the basic plan related to the promotion of natural energy introduction and promotion of energy conservation

(3) Health and Welfare Committee

- 19 bills and 2 petitions reviewed and voted on, including the Pediatric Care Council Ordinance

(4) Commerce, Industry and Tourism Committee

- 7 bills reviewed and voted on, including the formation of the Miyagi Prefecture Multicultural Society Promotion Plan

(5) Construction Enterprise Committee

- 49 bills reviewed and voted on including the conclusion of construction contract (disaster restoration work on Gokenbori-gawa River revetment and other locations)

(6) Education and Public Safety Committee

- 14 bills and 1 petition was reviewed and voted on, including the Bullying Countermeasures Investigation Committee Ordinance

5. Special Budget Committee

On February 19 and March 7 and 10, general deliberations were carried out by 20 committee members. Following the deliberations, reviews in each field were carried out and the FY2014 General Budget was approved.

6. Activities of the Great Earthquake Disaster Restoration and Reconstruction Policy Special Review Committee

At the end of January, reviews were made on the state of the restoration and reconstruction efforts in 7 disaster-affected municipalities as well as related issues. Opinion exchanges were also carried out together with the local municipal assemblies.