

The 354th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (November 2015 Regular Session)

1) Session: November 27, 2015 (Friday) to December 18, 2015 (Friday), 22 days

2) Outline

The 354th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (November 2015 regular session) was held over a period of 22 days from November 27 to December 18, 2015. This was the first assembly meeting held since the assembly member elections. On the first day of the assembly meeting, voting took place among the assembly members and Mr. Takashi Abe was elected as chairperson and Mr. Yoichi Hasegawa was elected as vice chairperson. 77 bills were approved in their original forms, including the bill to allocate an additional 78.17 billion JPY for the general account supplementary budget, which will help pay for damage caused by the flooding in Miyagi Prefecture and other matters.

Discussions were actively carried out during the general inquiries regarding disaster public housing construction, developing a family-friendly environment, the broad agreement made on TPP and its impact on the prefecture's agricultural industry, the flooding damage in the region, designated waste and other issues.

3) Bills Voted On

1. Motions (total): 1

■ Ordinance to amend a section of the ordinance related to publicizing information to promote small and medium-sized enterprises and small-scale enterprises

2. Proposals (total): 2

■ Proposal to strengthen the roles of regional universities

■ Proposal to allow therapy for cerebrospinal fluid hypovolemia syndrome to be covered by health insurance and promote treatment

3. Bills Submitted by the Governor (total): 77

■ FY2015 Miyagi Prefecture General Account Supplementary Budget, etc.

4. Petitions (total): 2

■ Petition to increase government subsidy amount for private schools (approved)

■ Petition to strengthen government subsidy system for private schools (approved)

4) Main Content of Inquiries Made During the Assembly

1. Current construction state of disaster public housing

As of the end of November 2015, construction begun on 14,166 housing units out of the 16,000 units that are planned to be built (89%). 7,784 housing units (49%) have been completed. It is planned to have 10,000 units completed by the end of this fiscal year.

2. Designated waste

Numerous requests have been made to the national government to carry out designated waste disposal

outside of the prefecture, but the national government has not changed its stance. The governor of Fukushima was consulted on the idea of bringing the designated waste to Fukushima for disposal. The Fukushima governor responded by saying that this cannot be done.

3. Regarding the damages incurred by the September flooding

There were damages to 100 rivers (496 sections) managed by the prefectural government. Levees along the 11 rivers (23 sections) were heavily damaged. In order to begin full-scale restoration, the national government is conducting disaster assessment. The goal is to create the Flood Prevention Plan and the River Maintenance and Management Plan during this fiscal year.

4. Response to child-rearing environment

The issues of raising healthy children and supporting child-rearing are important and efforts must be carried out as an entire prefecture. This fiscal year, the prefectural government has created an independent fund to support low birthrate countermeasure projects created independently by local municipalities. The prefecture has also started a program to give students a platform to increase understanding and interest in marriage and child-rearing among their peers.

5. Response to the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement

The prefecture is under the impression that the decision would be made based on the condition that industries nationwide would continue to grow and the nation would benefit. The prefecture made a request to the national government to promptly give a thorough explanation and to take full-fledged action to ensure that the production rate in the agricultural, forestry and fishing industries indisputably grows in a constant manner.

5) Regarding the Committees and Other Matters

1. Earthquake Disaster Recovery Special Committee
2. Low Population and Youth Measures Special Committee
3. Bullying and School Absence Special Committee
4. Industry Promotion Measures Special Committee
5. Tohoku Regional Tourism Promotion Special Committee