

# Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

## The 364th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (June 2018 Regular Session)

### 1. Session

June 18, 2018 (Mon.) to July 4, 2018 (Wed.), 17 days

### 2. Outline

The 364th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (June regular session) was held over a period of 17 days from June 18 to July 4, 2018. A total of 43 bills were approved in their original forms, including the established “Prefectural Tourism Promotion Finance Committee (temporary name)” proposal examining measures to secure funding for tourism policies, such as the ‘accommodation tax’. The general inquiries involved productive discussions regarding the prefectural government’s progress after recovery, with topics including support for victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake, recovery projects, tourism and promotion of primary industries.

### 3. Bills Voted On

#### (1) Proposals: 4

“Proposal requesting emergency response for the continuation of after-school programs for children with disabilities”

“Proposal to encourage further use of ‘help marks’ and ‘help cards’”

#### (2) Bills Submitted by the Governor: 39

Bill to amend part of the Miyagi prefectural tax ordinance, etc.

#### (3) Petitions: 1 (approved)

“Petition regarding the submission of proposals to the national diet requesting the expansion and continued financial support of Local Consumer Affairs (such as grants)”

### 4. Summary of General Inquiries Made During the Assembly

#### (1) Regarding the Kesenuma sea wall height construction error

The responsibility for the error lies with the prefecture, planners and contractors. There will be a discussion with specialists alongside an investigation into how responsibility should be divided up. Miyagi Prefectural Government will respond in good faith by sincerely listening to the voices of residents and ensure residents have a complete understanding of the new plan.

#### (2) Regarding training of tourist guides

We have been striving to improve the quality of tourist guides. Starting with DMOs in the Sendai/Matsushima recovery tourism area, we will work together with various DMOs within the prefecture to foster excellent guides.

#### (3) Regarding flexible expenditure of children’s education funds in Miyagi

Seven years have passed since the earthquake, and we have decided to revise how funds are used

for the “Miyagi children’s education fund” which provides scholarships for children who have lost parents in the Great East Japan Earthquake. With regard to scholarships in particular, we will examine various statistical data to get a grasp on the needs of eligible candidates. We will consider an expansion of the system along with an increase in payment. This will enable children orphaned by the earthquake disaster to choose their desired future career. We will also consider an expansion aimed at providing for orphaned children who lost their parents due to other reasons.

(4) Regarding the production expansion of horticultural crops

Demand for vegetables used for processing and business purposes is growing. Production areas across Miyagi are cooperating together and creating a council with their patrons to work towards stable shipping.

The “Miyagi Mariage Promotional Project” is promoting the development of processed goods by pairing wine with prefectural forestry and fishery products. With the winery at its core, the project will strive to create more fans of Miyagi wine, forestry and fishing products, encourage exchange between urban and rural areas as well as spread information. The hope is to establish a new model for the diversification of primary industry in these regions.

(5) Regarding the implementation of the club activity instructor system

Instead of teachers, “club activity instructors” provide guidance for club activities and escort club members to tournaments. Currently, Misato Town plans to employ one such instructor in a junior high school. An explanation and appropriate information about the club instructor system will be given to the prefectural sports instructor council and the prefecture will work to provide support in securing personnel.

(6) Regarding the maintenance of disability sports facilities

The prefecture strove to improve the usability of the prefectural Shogaisha Sogo Taiiku center (General Sports Center for Disabled People), with improvements such as extending the facility’s opening hours and installing ostomate toilets. Considering the maintenance situations of sports facilities in the area, the prefecture hopes to listen to the opinions of related organizations and review the situation from many different angles.

5. Activities of the Prefectural Assembly in Relation to Restoration and Reconstruction Efforts

On April 24, the prefecture heard from Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, Inc. Fukushima Revitalization Headquarters Vice Representative’s thoughts on future policies and compensation outlines for the damage caused by the nuclear incident. In addition, on June 25, we discussed with DOI Toru (the State Minister for Reconstruction), and the Reconstruction Agency Miyagi Bureau, issues relating to reconstruction/recovery. These issues were brought to the fore by a survey conducted in municipalities affected by the disaster.