

## Miyagi Prefectural Assembly News

- The 370th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (November 2019 Regular Session)

1. Session

November 25, 2019 (Mon.) to December 17, 2019 (Tue.), 23 days

2. Outline

The 370th Miyagi Prefectural Assembly (November regular session) was held over a period of 23 days from November 25 to December 17, 2019. A total of 58 bills were approved in their original forms, including the supplementary budget bill to add approximately 84.14 billion JPY to the FY2019 general account budget to cover recovery costs from rain damages caused by Typhoon 19. Another bill introduced was for an ordinance revision to make it possible to implement the “Miyagi Operations and Management System” – the integration of 3 waterworks projects through Public Private Partnership. The general inquiries included productive discussions regarding support policies for the damages caused by Typhoon 19, the “Miyagi System” for waterworks, and tourism promotion. Additionally, being the first session after re-elections, the Assembly elected ISHIKAWA Mitsujiro and SAITO Masami to serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

3. Bills Voted On

- (1) Motions: 1

“Ordinance for revising portion of existing ordinance pertaining to assemblymember remuneration”

- (2) Proposals: 1

“Proposal requesting support for disaster countermeasures for Typhoon 19 and other disasters”

- (3) Bills Submitted by the Governor: 60

FY2019 general account supplementary budget

Ordinance for revising portion of existing ordinance pertaining to the establishment of publicly-managed companies etc.

- (4) Inquiries: 1

Inquiry regarding request for review of retirement pay restriction penalties (should be dismissed)

- (5) Petitions: 4

“Petition regarding development of Kitakami Tsuyamasen prefectural road and Class A rivers including the Minamizawagawa River and Kitazawagawa River” and 2 other petitions (approved)

“Petition regarding the ‘Ordinance for revising portion of existing ordinance pertaining to the

establishment of publicly-managed companies' for the privatization of prefectural waterworks in a concession structure. The request for the continued deliberation, scrutiny, and responsibility for explaining to citizens and municipalities during the 370<sup>th</sup> Miyagi Prefecture Assembly" (rejected)

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

##### (1) Regarding support initiatives for Typhoon 19 victims

A request will be made to the national government to extend support eligibility for victims whose homes were partially damaged. If rice reserves were damaged by the flooding, 40% of expenses required to restart farming will be subsidized. For group subsidies to support small and mid-sized companies, the prefectural government will prepare its own subsidy system to complement the national government's support policies.

##### (2) Regarding the "Miyagi Operations and Management System"

This system will further reduce the burden on citizens and strengthen the management foundations of municipal waterworks projects. Thorough explanation will be provided going forward. The management status of operators will be continually confirmed through a three-stage monitoring system. By expanding private operators' discretion, the development and implementation of new technology are to be expected.

##### (3) Regarding the implementation of accommodation tax and other issues

In regards to possible double taxation with Sendai City, if Sendai City announces its intention to introduce its own accommodation tax as well, further discussion will be considered. Discussion will be carried out regarding how accommodation taxes will be used, focusing on developing Miyagi's attractions including hands-on experiences and accommodation experiences, as well as creating satisfying vacation environments.

The government will consult with the airport managing company and carefully take into consideration late night noise from Sendai Airport.

##### (4) Regarding the relocation of the Miyagi Museum of Art, etc.

In regards to the relocation of Miyagi Museum of Art and the Tokyo Electron Hall Miyagi to the same location, the 38-year old art museum will need to be rebuilt in the future. There is great merit for the citizens in relocating these facilities to the former site of the Sendai Medical Center, which has little restrictions for land use.

#### 5. Regarding committees

During the November regular session, committee members were selected for the Assembly Steering Committee and Standing Committee among others. The following 5 special committees

were also established.

- (1) Earthquake Disaster Recovery Special Committee
- (2) Natural Disaster Countermeasure Special Committee
- (3) Wildlife Protection Countermeasure Special Committee
- (4) Truancy and Hikikomori Countermeasure Special Committee
- (5) Regional Revitalization Countermeasure Special Committee