

## Extreme sexual 'anime' face curb

### Metro bill irks publishers saying freedom of expression is at stake

Kyodo News

A Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly panel Monday passed a controversial bill to toughen regulations on the sale of comics and animation containing depictions of "extreme" sexual acts.

The bill to revise the metropolitan government's ordinance seeking sound upbringing of youth will likely clear the assembly's plenary session Wednesday for enactment.

Amid complaints from the publishing industry that the bill could violate freedom of expression and stifle creativity, a clause was added demanding the assembly give consideration to artistic and social expressions and apply the ordinance carefully.

Subject to curbs under the bill will be depictions of rapes and other penal offenses and those "unduly lauding or exaggerating" incestuous affairs.

At Monday's meeting of the assembly's general affairs committee, the bill gained approval from members of the Democratic Party of Japan, the Liberal Democratic Party and New Komeito, while those of the Japanese Communist Party and another minor caucus opposed it.

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