Two Vetoes Overridden By Senate

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Congress delivered a double blow to President Ford's prestige yesterday as the Senate joined the House in overriding two of Mr. Ford's vetoes.

The Senate narrowly overrode the veto of the Freedom of Information Act amendments bill designed to provide the press and public with easier access to government documents. The 52-to-47 vote was over the necessary two-thirds of those present and voting.

But it overrode a veto of a vocational rehabilitation bill rearranging the administration of federal programs to improve job opportunities for the handicapped, by 90-to-1.

Virginia Republican William L. Scott cast the lone vote to sustain the President.

Only five times before has a President received a mere single Senate vote to sustain a veto, the last time in 1921. Unanimous votes to override a veto have been cast only three times in Senate history.

Of 13 bills Mr. Ford has vetoed during his 3½ months in office, three have been overridden into law. The first was a railroad retirement bill last month.

During former President Nixon's 3½ years in office, he vetoed 25 bills and five were overridden.

Veto, A3, Col. 5
Two Vetoes Are Overridden by Senate

VETO, From A1

The House overrode both vetoes Wednesday, the vocational rehabilitation veto 386 to 7 and the Freedom of Information veto 271 to 31.

The House decided yesterday to refer another vetoed bill, a farm workers bill, to committee rather than cast a vote on it.

The override of the vocational rehabilitation veto sets the stage for another legal hassle over the President's pocket veto rights, if the administration decides to press its claim that the bill was dead and Congress had no right to vote on it.

(As Mr. Nixon before him, President Ford has continued to take advantage of short congressional recesses to "pocket veto" bills. To prevent Congress from adjourning so that a President could not return a vetoed bill to them, the Constitution provides that the President can "pocket veto" bills when Congress is away.)

But congressional leaders maintain that they made arrangements to receive veto messages during short recesses and act promptly on vetoes when they return, so that Mr. Nixon's and Mr. Ford's use of the pocket veto is abuse.

The vocational rehabilitation bill would alter procedures in Health, Education and Welfare, and "the President's veto message said it would create another bureaucracy and dictate "where in HEW minute decisions must be made."

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), in statement, called the President's objections "misleading and insubstantial...since they ignore the obvious fact that present HEW arrangements for the handicapped are ineffective, unsatisfactory and self-defeating."

The Freedom of Information vote was expected to be much closer, particularly since a letter urging support for Mr. Ford on the issue was circulated by, among others, Min...