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Obama vetoes bill on foreclosure documents

'Unintended consequences' cited in surprise move

By [Stephen Dinan](#)

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The Washington Times

6:35 p.m., Thursday, October 7, 2010

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Even though the measure passed [Congress](#) without a single dissenting vote, President [Obama](#) this week spotted potentially nefarious side effects in an arcane bill to rewrite rules on notarized documents, issuing only the second veto of his presidency Thursday.

The move took lawmakers on Capitol Hill by surprise.

The bill's sponsor, [Rep. Robert B. Aderholt](#), an Alabama Republican, said those who have raised objections are "misunderstanding" what the bill would have done, and some Republicans are arguing that [Mr. Obama's](#) veto -- technically a "pocket veto" in which he simply refuses to sign the measure -- may not even be legal under the standards Democrats applied to President [George W. Bush](#) in 2007.

"This is a bill that would help people, and I am disappointed that it was vetoed," [Mr. Aderholt](#) said.

The legislation — a mere 334 words long — would have required states to recognize documents notarized in other states. Right now, backers said, some states reject documents from other states for reasons as mundane as the type of seal used by a notary. Some states require the seal to be in ink, while others require it to be embossed.

But [Mr. Obama](#), seizing on recent reports that banks submitted fraudulent documents to push through home foreclosures, said [Congress](#) needs to be more cautious about changing notarization rules.

Some banks have acknowledged that employees had falsely attested they had reviewed the documents.

"We need to think through the intended and unintended consequences of this bill on consumer protections, especially in light of the recent developments with mortgage processors," [Dan Pfeiffer](#), the [White House's](#) communications director, wrote in a note explaining the decision.

He said administration officials do not question the motives of lawmakers who approved the bill, and he said the [White House](#) will "explore the best ways to achieve this goal going forward."

House [Judiciary Committee](#) Chairman [John Conyers Jr.](#), who had supported the bill for years and allowed it to pass his committee, did an about-face Thursday and said he was convinced by [Mr. Obama's](#) objections.

[Story Continues →](#)

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Stephen Dinan can be reached at sdinan@washingtontimes.com.

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Prof_Dr_G says:

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How could something like this happen? Do they not even talk to each other? We already know that they don't read the documents they vote on, but it appears that they don't even talk! They are dysfunctional idiots!

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Obama....best friend a deadbeat ever had.

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Didn't anyone in Congress or the Senate read this bill? Who is writing this stuff? Can you believe over 500 people read this and did not see the lurking danger? Is there danger or is politics at play?

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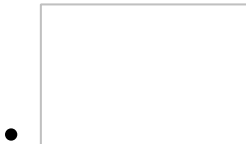
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By David Rising - Associated Press

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By Stephen Bernard - Associated Press

The Dow Jones industrial average closed above 11,000 for the first time in five months Friday as hopes built that the Federal Reserve will take more action to get the economy going again. Published 6:18 p.m. October 8, 2010

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