President Pierce vetoed nine bills, all of which were regular vetoes. Five were overridden (Item Nos. 41, 42, 43, 44, 45). There were no vetoes in the second and third sessions of the Thirty-fourth Congress.

Thirty-third Congress, First Session

Regular Vetoes

37 S. 44.

Making a grant of public lands to the several States for the benefit of indigent insane persons.


_The Senate sustained_ the veto on July 6, 1854 by a vote of 21 yeas to 26 nays. (July 6, 1854, S. Jour., pp. 478, 479).

_Veto sustained._

38 H.R. 117.

To provide for the ascertainment of claims of American citizens or spoliations committed by the French prior to July 31, 1801.

_Vetoed February 17, 1855._ The veto message was laid before the House. (February 17, 1855, H. Jour., pp. 397–411; _see also_ S. Misc. Doc. No. 53, 49th Cong., 2d sess., pp. 235–251).

_The House sustained_ the veto on February 19, 1855 by a vote of 113 yeas to 86 nays. (February 19, 1855, H. Jour., pp. 413, 414).

_Veto sustained._

39 H.R. 392.

Making appropriations for the repair, preservation, and completion of certain public works, heretofore commenced under authority of law.
Vetoed August 4, 1854. The veto message was laid before the House. (August 4, 1854, H. Jour., pp. 1340, 1341; see also S. Misc. Doc. No. 53, 49th Cong., 2d sess. p. 221).

The House sustained the veto on December 6, 1854 by a vote of 95 yeas to 80 nays. (December 6, 1854, H. Jour., p. 49).

Veto sustained.

Thirty-third Congress, Second Session

Regular Veto

H.R. 595.

Making appropriations for the transportation of the United States mail, by ocean steamships and otherwise, during the fiscal years ending the 30th of June, 1855 and the 30th of June, 1856.


The House sustained the veto on March 3, 1855 by a vote of 79 yeas to 99 nays. (March 3, 1855, H. Jour., pp. 546, 547).

Veto sustained.

Regular Vetoes

S. 1.

Making an appropriation for deepening the channel over the St. Clair Flats, in the State of Michigan.

Vetoed May 19, 1856. The veto message was laid before the Senate. (May 19, 1856, S. Jour., pp. 341, 342; see also S. Misc. Doc. No. 53, 49th Cong., 2d sess., pp. 255, 256.

The Senate overrode the veto on July 7, 1856 by a vote of 28 yeas to 8 nays. (July 7, 1856, S. Jour., p. 420).

The House overrode the veto on July 8, 1856 by a vote of 139 yeas to 55 nays. (July 8, 1856, H. Jour., pp. 1176, 1177).


S. 2.

Making an appropriation for deepening the channel over the flats of the St. Mary's River, in the State of Michigan.

Vetoed May 22, 1856. The veto message was laid before the Senate. (May 22, 1856, S. Jour., pp. 351, 352; see also S. Misc. Doc. No. 53, 49th Cong., 2d sess., pp. 256, 257).
The Senate overrode the veto on July 7, 1856 by a vote of 28 yeas to 10 nays. (July 7, 1856, S. Jour., p. 419).


To remove obstructions to navigation in the mouth of the Mississippi River, at the Southwest Pass and Pass a l'Outre.

Vetoed May 19, 1856. The veto message was laid before the Senate. (May 19, 1856, S. Jour., p. 340; see also S. Misc. Doc. No. 53, 49th Cong., 2d sess., pp. 254, 255).

The Senate overrode the veto on July 7, 1856 by a vote of 31 yeas to 12 nays. (July 7, 1856, S. Jour., p. 418).


For the improvement of the navigation of the Patapsco River, and to render the port of Baltimore accessible to the war steamers of the United States.

Vetoed August 14, 1856. The veto message was laid before the Senate. (August 14, 1856, S. Jour., p. 608; see also S. Misc. Doc. No. 53, 49th Cong., 2d sess., pp. 257, 258).

The Senate overrode the veto on August 16, 1856, by a vote of 31 yeas to 14 nays. (August 16, 1856, S. Jour., pp. 621, 622).


For continuing the improvement of the Des Moines Rapids, in the Mississippi River.

Vetoed August 11, 1856. The veto message was laid before the House. (August 11, 1856, H. Jour., p. 1420; see also S. Misc. Doc. No. 53, 49th Cong., 2d sess., p. 257).

The House overrode the veto on August 11, 1856 by a vote of 130 yeas to 54 nays. (August 11, 1856, H. Jour., pp. 1420, 1421).