House OKs Bill Targeting Iran Deal; Obama Vows to Veto

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By AP and JTA

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The US House of Representatives on Tuesday approved a Republican-led bill targeting the landmark nuclear agreement with Iran.

Lawmakers voted 246-181 Tuesday to pass the Iran Terror Finance Transparency Act, ignoring a veto threat from President Barack Obama.

The House first passed the legislation on January 13, even though 137 representatives hadn’t voted.

To placate frustrated members, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy “vacated” the vote — essentially rendering it null and void — and scheduled another one.

The House bill would bar the removal of certain individuals and financial institutions on a restricted list until the president certifies to Congress that they weren’t involved in Iran’s ballistic missiles program or in terrorist activities.

The Obama administration says the deal focuses narrowly on stopping Iran’s nuclear weapons program, and as long as Iran abides by its agreements regarding its nuclear sector, it makes more sense to address its disruptive behavior in the region through other means.

The White House has said the bill could cause “the collapse” of the nuclear agreement, and Obama has promised to veto it, should it pass in both houses.