

Various Artists

"I'm Just A Bill"

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Lyrics & Music by: Dave Frishberg

Performed by: Jack Sheldon

Boy:

Whew! You sure gotta climb a lot of steps to get to this Capitol Building here in Washington. But I wonder who that sad little scrap of paper is?

I'm just a bill.

Yes, I'm only a bill.

And I'm sitting here on Capitol Hill.

Well, it's a long, long journey

To the capital city.

It's a long, long wait

While I'm sitting in committee,

But I know I'll be a law some day

At least I hope and pray that I will

But today I am still just a bill.

Boy:

Gee, Bill, you certainly have a lot of patience and courage.

BILL:

Well, I got this far. When I started I wasn't even a bill, I was just an idea. Some folks back home decided they wanted a law passed, so they called their local Congressman, and he said, "You're right, there oughta be a law." Then he sat down and wrote me out and introduced me to Congress. And I became a bill, and I'll remain a bill until they decide to make me a law.

I'm just a bill

Yes I'm only a bill,

And I got as far as Capitol Hill.

Well, now I'm stuck in committee

And I'll sit here and wait

While a few key Congressmen discuss and debate

Whether they should let me be a law.

How I hope and pray that they will,
But today I am still just a bill.

Boy:

Listen to those Congressmen arguing! Is all that
discussion and debate about you.

BILL:

Yeah, I'm one of the lucky ones. Most bills never
even get this far. I hope they decide to report on
me favorably, otherwise I may die.

Boy:

Die?

BILL:

Yeah, die in committee. Ooh, but it looks like I'm
gonna live! NOW I go to the House of
Representatives, and they vote on me.

Boy:

if they vote yes, what happens?

BILL:

Then I go to the Senate and the whole thing starts
all over again.

Boy:

Oh no!

BILL:

Oh yes!

I'm just a bill

Yes, I'm only a bill

And if they vote for me on Capitol Hill

Well, then I'm off to the White House

Where I'll wait in a line

With a lot of other bills

For the president to sign

And if he signs me, then I'll be a law.

HOW I hope and pray that he will,

But today I am still just a bill.

Boy:

You mean even if the whole Congress says you
should be a law, the president can still say no?

BILL:

Yes, that's called a veto. If the president vetoes
me, I have to go back to Congress and they vote

on me again, and by that time you're so old ...

Boy:

By that time it's very unlikely that you'll become a law.

It's not easy

to become a law, is it?

BILL:

No!

But how I hope and pray that I will, But today I am still
just a bill.

MAN:

He signed you, Bill Now you're a law!

BILL:

Oh yes

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