



# I'M JUST A BILL

**First Aired: 1975**  
**Lyrics & Music: Dave Frishberg**  
**Performed by: Jack Sheldon**  
**Designed by: Tom Yohe**  
**Animation by: Phil Kimmelman and Associates**

*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!!!*