

# I'M JUST A BILL

Music & Lyrics: Dave Frishberg

Sung by: Jack Sheldon

>> (Woof! You sure gotta climb a lotta 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 someday...  
At least I hope and pray that I will,  
But today I'm still just a bill.  
>> (Gee, bill, you certainly have a lot of patience and courage!)

(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 "You're right, there ought to 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 sit here and wait  
While a few key congressmen  
Discuss and debate  
Whether they should  
Let me be a law...  
Oh how I hope and pray that they will,  
But today I am still just a bill.

>> (Listen to those congressmen arguing! Is all that discussion and  
>> debate about you?)

(Yes. I'm one of the lucky ones. Most bills never even get this far.

I hope they decide to report on me favourably, otherwise I may die.)

>> ("Die?")

(Yeah: die in committee. Oooh! But it looks like I'm gonna live.  
Now I go to the House of Representatives and they vote on me.)

>> (If they vote "yes", what happens?)

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

>> (Oh no!)

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

>> (You mean even if the whole Congress says you should be a law, the  
>> President can still say no?)

(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 it's...)

>> (By that time, it's very unlikely that you'll *\*become\** a law! It's

>> not easy to become a law, is it?)

No! But how I hope and I pray that I will,  
But today I am still just a bill!

>> (He signed you, bill! Now you're a law!)

(Oh yes!)