

I am just a bill Song by Jack Sheldon

... 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.

... 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 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.

... Listen to those Congressmen arguing!

Is all that discussion and debate about you.

... 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.

... Die?

... 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.

... 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.
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 you're so old ...

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

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

... Oh yes!!!