

# I'm Just a Bill (1975)

## Schoolhouse Rock

**Boy:** Woof! 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 someday  
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.

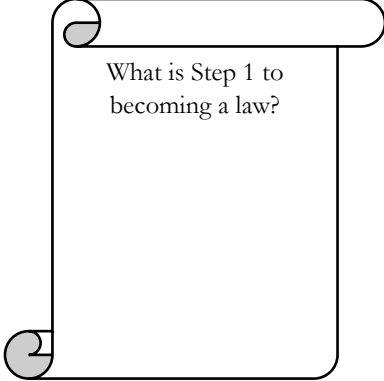
**Bill:** Well I got this far. When I started, I wasn't even a bill, I was just an idea. Some folks back home decided they wanted a law passed, so they called their local Congressman and he said, "You're right, there oughta be a law." Then he sat down and wrote me out and introduced me to Congress. And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

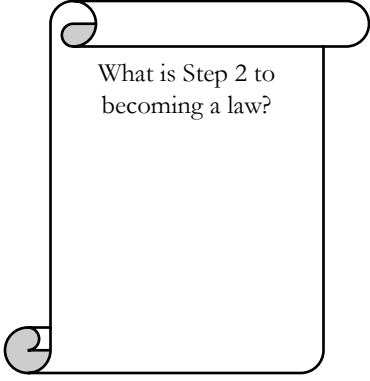
**Boy:** Listen to those congressmen arguing! Is all that discussion and debate about you?

**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?



What is Step 1 to becoming a law?



What is Step 2 to becoming a law?

**Bill:** 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.

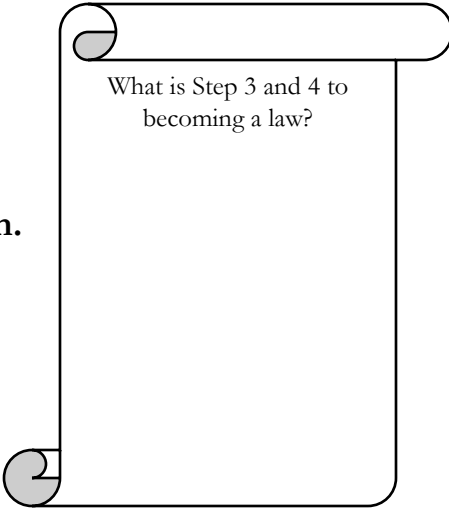
**Boy:** If they vote yes, what happens?

**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.*



What is Step 3 and 4 to becoming a law?

**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...

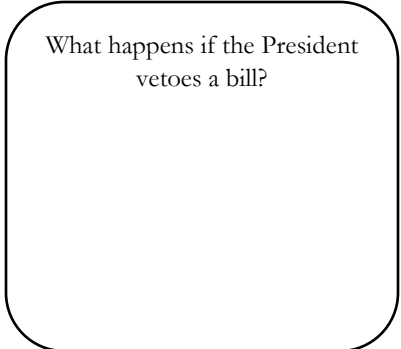
**Boy:** By that time it's very unlikely that you'll become a law. It's not easy to become a law, is it?

**Bill:** No!

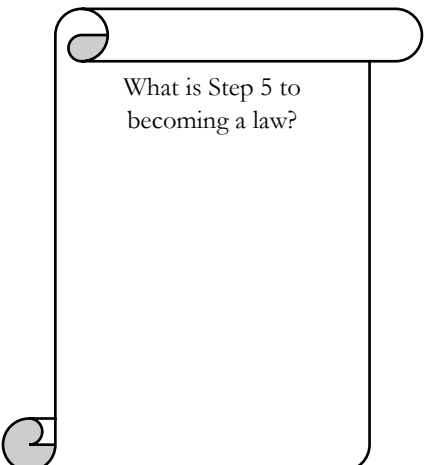
*But how I hope and I pray that I will,  
But today I am still just a bill.*

**Congressman:** He signed you, Bill! Now you're a law!

**Bill:** Oh yes!



What happens if the President vetoes a bill?



What is Step 5 to becoming a law?