**I'M JUST A BILL**

"School House Rocks"  Music & Lyrics: Dave Frishberg  Sung by: Jack Sheldon

**Directions:** Watch and listen to the song and try to fill in the lyrics that are missing. Use the word bank below. Some words may be used more than once.

**WORD BANK:**
- Capital
- White House
- Congress
- President
- idea
- Senate
- die
- Washington
- veto
- Representatives
- President
- debate
- committee
- bill
- law
- congressman

>>>Woof! You sure gotta climb a lotta steps to get to this Capitol Building here in 1.______________!
But I wonder who that sad little scrap of paper is?

**VERSE 1:**
I'm just a bill,
Yes, I'm only a bill,
And I'm sitting here on 2.__________ Hill.
Well, it's a long, long journey
To the capital city,
It's a long, long wait
While I'm sitting in 3.__________
But I know I'll be a 4._______ someday...
At least I hope and pray that I will,
But today I'm still just a 5.______

>>>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 6.______ Some folks back home decided they wanted a law passed, so they called their local 7.__________ and he said, "You're right, there ought to be a law." Then he sat down and wrote me out and introduced me to 8.__________, and I became a bill. And I'll remain a bill until they decide to make me a law.

**VERSE 2:**
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 9.__________
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 10.__________ 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 favorably, otherwise I may 11.__________
>>>"Die?"
>Yeah: Die in committee. Oooh! But it looks like I'm gonna live. Now I go to the House of 12.__________ and they vote on me.
>>>If they vote "yes", what happens?
>Then I go to the 13.__________ and the whole thing starts all over again.
>>>Oh no!
>Oh yes!

**VERSE 3:**
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 14.__________
Where I'll wait in a line
With a lot of other bills
For the 15.__________ 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 16.__________ can still say no?
>>>Yes, that's called a "17.__________". 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!
How a Bill Becomes a Law Drawing

Directions: Your task is to make a poster about how a national bill becomes a national law. On your sheet of large paper, illustrate and label all the steps it takes for a bill to become a law. Here is an example. You do not have to draw your illustration exactly the same way, but you should include all of the same steps. You may use pictures or other drawing to help your poster really look fantastic. You may even write a short idea for a bill to really explain how a bill would become a law. Make sure to write a title for your poster.

How a bill becomes law:

1. Senator writes a bill
2. Senate bill is debated in committees
3. Senate bill dies
4. House bill is debated in committees
5. House bill goes to Senate
6. Senate bill is debated in committees
7. Senate bill dies
8. Senate bill is passed by the House
9. House bill is passed by the Senate
10. House bill is passed by the Senate
11. President vetoes bill
12. President approves & signs bill
13. President signs bill
14. Bill becomes public law
15. Bill becomes public law
16. 2/3 of senators OR house members vote to pass bill
17. 2/3 of senators favor and the bill dies
18. House bill goes back to Senate
19. Senate bill dies