

The Story of the Bill That Could

Name _____ HR _____

Use the terms from your Congressional Pocket Dictionary as well as your sheet on How A Bill Becomes a Law & The Stages of the Legislative Process to fill in the blanks to complete the sweet story that follows.

Once upon a time, there was a bill entitled “An _____ to Make College Affordable for All.” Our tale begins with a member of the House of Representatives placing the bill in the _____ so it could get a number from the Clerk and start its amazing journey towards becoming a law! Next our bill was referred to a _____ to be discussed. This group called for an open _____ so interested parties could talk about it. Committee members discussed the bill and made changes, or _____ to make the bill even better. As this bill was going to cost the government money it was known as an _____ bill. Both Democrats and Republicans supported the idea of the bill and worked in a _____ manner so it was not a surprise that when the vote came the bill passed with a large _____. Now that the bill had passed in the committee, it was placed on the House calendar and brought to the _____ for debate. The debate was heated as the bill was going to cost a lot of money. Some opponents called it another example of _____ spending to benefit only certain districts. Another member who was against the bill but felt it was going to pass tried to add a _____ about military spending to help his home district keep jobs. It was voted down and instead a member moved for _____ to end the debate and put the bill to a vote. As there were enough members to vote, or _____ in attendance the voting ensued. It was a close vote but it passed 235 – 200. Now the bill would be sent to a Senate _____. The bill passed there and was sent to the full Senate. Debate there was very heated. There were a few members who were very much against the bill and tried to delay the bill by holding the floor in a _____. One of those delaying things was a _____ Senator as he was not running for re-election and did not have to worry about what the folks back home thought. Other Senators were so upset that there was even talk of voting to _____ those who were wasting their time to show their disapproval. While this was going on, party members of the opposing party met in a _____ to determine their strategy to convince others to pass the bill. The _____ for both parties were busy counting up the votes and making sure their party members would be there for what was to be a close vote. Eventually the bill was passed but with several changes. The amended bill was sent back to the _____ who agreed to some of the changes but not others. This meant that the bill would now be sent to a _____ to work out the differences between the two parts of Congress. They work out a compromise and the bill is sent back to both houses and is passed. Now the bill would be sent to the _____ to be signed or _____. There was worry that the President thought it cost too much for now but would sign it if Congress delayed its start till July 1st, the beginning of the next _____. If the bill was not passed then Congress would have one more chance to have the bill become law if they voted to _____ the President with a 2/3 majority. Fortunately for all those needy college students, the President signed the bill. Now all students had the money they needed for college and could go on to live happily ever after. ***The End.***