

the year 1838, received from said company five thousand shares of said stock in lieu of dividend (equal at the par value to \$50,000); all of which stock the State of Maryland now owns; and

Whereas, All of said stock so held by the State of Maryland, together with the stock subscribed by individuals and corporations, to be applied to the construction of said Washington Branch of said railroad, is, by virtue of said Act of 1832, chapter 175, constituted forever a stock separate and distinct from all other stock issued by said railroad company; and

Whereas For many years next preceding the year 1897, the State of Maryland has been in receipt of dividends of ten per cent. per annum on the par value of said stock, amounting to \$55,000 in each of said years; and

Whereas, The said Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company have failed to pay to the State of Maryland any dividend on the said stock since the semi-annual dividend due in May, 1897; therefore,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Attorney General of Maryland, be and he is hereby authorized and directed forthwith to take such proceeding as shall be adequate and proper for the fullest assertion and protection of all the rights of the State of Maryland, in respect of its ownership in the stock of the Washington branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, whether by way of dividend or otherwise."

Which was read the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. Bouic, from Committee on Judicial Proceedings, reported favorably with proposed amendment.

House bill entitled "An Act to repeal and re-enact with amendments, section 6, of Article 52, of the Code of Public General Laws of the State of Maryland, title 'Justices of the Peace.'"

AMENDMENT PROPOSED.

Amend by adding at the end of section 1, after the word "dollar," the following: