

No legislation of the least importance in actively prosecuting the war was enacted, and Sharpe in disgust on March 26th, prorogued the Assembly until July 1st following, although it was destined to be called together a week earlier.

When the Assembly met on June 23, 1755, in its third session, General Braddock, as commander-in-chief, had very recently arrived in Virginia and had just begun his march to the frontier. The Lower House was composed of the same determined group as was the last, although at this session the Proprietary party lost a valuable member in Lloyd Buchanan of Baltimore County, who was expelled from the House because he had accepted the position of Public Prosecutor of Baltimore County. Sharpe in his opening address referred to a letter recently received from Braddock saying that as soon as he had reduced the fort (Duquesne), which the French had presumed to erect lately on the Ohio, he proposed to garrison it with the Provincial troops of Maryland and Virginia and to have it victualled by the Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania governments.

To show its gratitude to the King for sending such a body of regular troops as that under Braddock, the Governor urged the Lower House to make an immediate grant of supplies for His Majesty's service and "to avoid the Rock on which the Difficulty of raising large Sums may make you Split." The Lower House expressed its wish to make an immediate allowance and inquired what quota of the expenses had been assigned to Maryland at Sharpe's conference with Braddock "at the late Congress," held in Alexandria. The Governor replied that no definite quota had been agreed upon there, but that Virginia had voted £6,000 and that he hoped Maryland would contribute £4,000. The Lower House then resolved that Maryland should raise £5,000 for this purpose, and at the same time decided to steer straight for the rock that Sharpe had urged it to avoid, by voting 36 to 4 that "one of the ways and means" to raise this should be from the fees derived from licences on ordinaries, and directed the Committee on Laws to inquire as to additional sources by which the money might be obtained. This Committee reported on June 26th, advising that it be raised by licences on ordinaries and on pedlars, by taxes on wheel carriages and billiard tables, and by import duties on servants, negroes and wines, and was directed by the Lower House to prepare such a bill. On June 28th the bill was reported to the Lower House, passed, and sent to the Upper House, where it was promptly rejected, not only on account of the inclusion of the disputed licences on ordinaries, but because it was felt that the receipts to be expected from the other sources would be insufficient. The Lower House then amended the bill by adding additional duties on sugar and molasses, but refused to eliminate the licences from ordinaries. On July 5th the Upper House finally rejected the bill. The Lower House then passed an order directing that the