

Two private acts were passed, one to entail lands in Prince George's County on the female heirs of Leonard Hollyday, deceased, and the other to rectify certain errors in a defective deed to a town lot in Annapolis from Thomas Larkin to John Jordan made in 1728, both parties being now deceased. The Assembly after a long session of three months was prorogued by the Governor on May 22d, until the first Monday in January 1757, although it was to be brought together again on September 14, 1756, some months before the date to which it was prorogued.

Sharpe called the Assembly together on September 14, 1756, because of the receipt of letters from Henry Fox, the Secretary of State of the King, and from the Earl of Loudoun, the new commander-in-chief of the British forces in America. Although active warfare between the English and the French in North America had been carried on for some two years, war had not been formally declared by England until May 27, 1756, and the Proclamation to this effect was not published in Annapolis until August 11th. After the fall of Oswego the French and their Indian allies became more aggressive in their attacks upon the Maryland frontier and the settlers fled eastward in large numbers. Many of these settlers were Germans and Sharpe expressed in no uncertain terms his contempt for their failure to make the least attempt to defend themselves. It became necessary to send the militia from the eastern counties to defend the frontier (*Archiv. Md.*, vi, 481-4; 490-2). In his opening speech the Governor announced that Fox had requested that the Assembly make provision to compensate the masters of indentured servants who might wish to enlist in the army for their unexpired terms of service, that every assistance be given to forward enlistment in the Royal American Regiment, that funds raised by the Province for defensive purposes be made available for use by the commander-in-chief as he might direct, and that the embargo be tightened on the export of provisions and arms to prevent these getting into the hands of the French. Loudoun's letters to Sharpe from New York and Albany, dated respectively July 25th and August 20th, announced the further advance of the French in that region, that Oswego had fallen with the destruction of the British naval power on the lakes, and that Maryland now must defend its own frontier as he could do no more than hold the enemy in the North. He further urged that every effort be made to secure recruits for the four battalions of the Royal American Regiment for which the King was sending officers, and added that he would advance the money required for recruiting until the Province itself had an opportunity to make the necessary appropriation.

The Lower House organized by adopting the rules of the last session and appointing the same officers and committees that had served at that session, except that the Rev. Clement Brooke, curate of St. Anne's, Annapolis, instead