

derived. We will see that two separate Supply bills were drawn up by the Lower House at the April–May 1757 session. The first was amended by the Upper House in such a way as to cause its rejection by the lower body. The second bill under a slightly different title than the first, a bill that was a make-shift and inadequate, was, however, finally passed as a compromise measure.

The first of these two Supply bills was entitled “An Act for His Majesty’s Service and the more Immediate Defense and Security of this Province”. It was drawn up by a committee of the Lower House consisting of Edward Tilghman, Philip Hammond, Matthew Tilghman, William Murdock, and Charles Carroll the Barrister, and was introduced on April 19 (pp. 61-62). After amendment in the Upper House, it was rejected by the lower chamber on April 27 (p. 77).

It has not been possible to learn in detail all the provisions of this bill as passed by the Lower House, as no copy of it, printed or in manuscript, can be found, although a resolution was adopted by the Lower House directing its printing together with the amendments to it proposed in the Upper House and the messages exchanged between the two houses relating to it (p. 82). From the recorded votes on the amendments and from the messages which passed relating to it, its general tenor as well as the differences of opinion between the two houses can be learned. Under it five hundred men as requested by Loudoun were to be raised and maintained, although the Lower House, while reluctantly acquiescing in this number, declared that it was unnecessarily large for the protection of the Province. The Upper House amended the bill so as to double this number. The Lower House bill evidently provided that a specified minimum number of men should always be left to defend Fort Frederick, while the Upper House amendment left the number to be retained in this fort to the judgement of the Governor. The money to be used under this bill seems to have been certain unexpended balances left over from previous Supply bills, and was not to be raised by new taxation.

The Lower House imposed so many restrictions on the methods of keeping the military accounts and the muster rolls, and so tied up payments for provisions and men on furloughs, as would have tied the hands of the Governor and seriously hampered the efficiency of the service. The Lower House bill further provided that irregularities in officers’ accounts should be recoverable from them by civil suits and with pecuniary penalties, while the Upper House placed the remedy in courts martial which might either fine or imprison the offender. There were also differences of opinion as to the method of pensioning soldiers injured in service. Probably all these differences could have been adjusted, however, had not the Lower House insisted that the garrison at Fort Frederick should never be less than a minimum number fixed by the act, which would have prevented the use of the Provincial troops by the Governor where he thought they were most needed. The problem as to how best to obtain funds for the support of the soldiers to be raised did not enter into this bill as in later Supply bills, for it would appear that only certain unexpended balances left over from previous Supply bills were to be made use of, and that no money was to be raised by new taxes (pp. 119-120). The bill as amended in the