

The Committee on Taxation and Fiscal Matters had been studying the so-called Bailey report which nearly one year earlier had studied the distribution of gasoline tax funds and motor vehicle revenue funds.

The Committee on Taxation and Fiscal Matters endorsed in principle that part of the Bailey report which recommended that the State's system within Baltimore City be identified for the purpose of distributing State funds. The Committee also thought there was merit in the proposal of the Bailey Commission that the density of motor vehicle registration be made a factor in the distribution of highway funds. However, the Committee was unable to accept the method by which this factor had been utilized in the Bailey report because its effect would have been to freeze the distribution of local highway funds in twenty counties and reduce it in Baltimore City. Only three jurisdictions would have gained an immediate benefit.

Because the Committee on Taxation and Fiscal Matters believes that each jurisdiction must have enough funds to maintain a basic road net, it could not endorse such a drastic revision of the distribution of local highway funds. It believes that the only method by which this factor can be employed with equity would involve an increase in the total amount of funds available for highway maintenance and construction.

In the judgment of the Committee on Taxation and Fiscal Matters, there is a need for three separate funds: (1) to maintain a basic road net in each political sub-division; (2) to provide necessary additional facilities where there are heavy concentrations of vehicles; (3) to provide against emergencies such as heavy snows or floods wherever they may occur.

These recommendations seemed to involve technical problems which were beyond the resources of the Committee on Taxation and Fiscal Matters. Accordingly, it is felt that they should be studied by the State Roads Commission; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Governor be requested to refer the subject matter of the Bailey report to the State Roads Commission with a directive that the State Roads Commission conduct a study to determine local highway needs, the cost thereof, and the means of providing for those costs; and be it further

RESOLVED THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE STATE ROADS COMMISSION FOR SUCH STUDY; AND BE IT FURTHER

Resolved, That the State Roads Commission AND SUCH COMMITTEE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL be requested to report the results of its SUCH study together with its SUGGESTED recommendations to the Legislative Council and to the members of the General Assembly not later than October 1, 1961.

Approved March 23, 1961.