

The President submitted the following:

WHEREAS, It is admitted that the revenues of the State of Maryland, the City of Baltimore and some of the counties would be greatly reduced under the operation of a law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of all beers, wines and liquors throughout the State, such as is proposed in the State-wide Prohibition Bill now pending before the Senate; and

WHEREAS, No such serious action as that proposed ought to be taken without the General Assembly and the people of Maryland having the fullest and most complete information obtainable on the effect which such a law would have on the fiscal affairs of the State, especially in the present straitened and uncertain conditions of the State's finances; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of Maryland, That the Finance Committee of this body be requested and directed to furnish to the Senate information as nearly as it can be approximated on the effect of the said proposed prohibition law, as follows:

1. What revenue does the State of Maryland derive directly from the license fees and other imposts on the sale of intoxicants?
2. What revenue is derived from direct taxes on manufactories of liquor, liquor held in bond or storage and upon buildings where liquor is sold?
3. What would be the estimated loss of revenue per annum to the State and to the City of Baltimore, from and after the date when the proposed prohibition law is scheduled to go into effect, as the result of such law, including the decrease in the taxable basis, if any, resulting from the depreciation in the value of liquor manufactories and places of sale?
4. What would be the estimated deficiency in State revenue from this and from general causes in the year 1918?
5. If this deficiency in revenue were to be made up from direct taxation, what would be the probable tax rate in the State and City of Baltimore, resulting from such action?
6. Can the Finance Committee suggest any new sources of revenue for the State, aside from the direct tax on property, to aid in decreasing the deficiency; and, if so, what sources?
7. In case of a too burdensome tax rate, would there be danger of the State's abandoning or curtailing any of its activities in public education, in the conservation of health,