

and which they expect to be done. I therefore respectfully request that your Excellency will appropriate from the Contingent fund under your control, the sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) heretofore allowed to the Laboratory. The appropriation of this sum will make effective the salary of an officer who now receives two thousand dollars from the public Treasury and without it, the services for which that salary is paid, cannot be rendered, unless by taking a part of the salary to procure articles indispensable to the performance of his duties.

Had not the State better pay five hundred dollars to receive full benefit from its expenditure of \$2000. (the amount of my salary) than pay \$2000. for no service unless the means to perform them be taken from the resources of its officers?

The Legislature by a misapprehension, not seen in time to be corrected made no appropriation for the Laboratory from the first of May next (to-morrow).

I therefore respectfully submit to your Excellency's judgment if this be not one of the cases to be provided for from the Contingent fund at your Excellency's disposal; & if you can not so provide, I respectfully request your Excellency to inform me as to what course of conduct I shall pursue so as to discharge the duties of the office which I hold by your appointment.

I have the honor to be

Very truly &c.

James Higgins  
State Ag. Chemist.

State of Maryland  
Executive Department

Annapolis May 2<sup>d</sup> 1855

To Jas. Higgins  
State Ag. Chemist

Sir,  
I have received your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> ult. calling my attention to the fact that no appropriation exists for the Laboratory of the State Chemist, for the year commencing on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the present month, & asking that the sum of \$500. should be appropriated for this purpose may be allowed from the Executive Contingent Fund.

I concur with you in opinion that an annual appropriation for the use of the Laboratory is necessary for the proper performance of the duties of your Office; but on examination I find that the appropriation for 1855 as first prepared and submitted to the Legislature contained the usual item of \$450. for the Laboratory & that it was struck out by the Senate (Page 370 Senate Journal) and subsequently concurred in by the House.