
Incremental Funding

The provision or recording of budgetary resources for a program or project based on obligations estimated to be incurred within a fiscal year when such budgetary resources are provided for only part of the estimated cost of the acquisition. (For a distinction, *see* Full Funding.)

Inflation (Economics Term)

A rise in the general price level.

Inflator (Economics Term)

An index used to express a current dollar amount in prices of another period.

Internal Control

An integral component of an organization's management that provides reasonable assurance that the following objectives are being achieved: (1) effectiveness and efficiency of operations, (2) reliability of financial reporting, and (3) compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Safeguarding of assets is a subset of all three of these objectives.

J

Joint Resolution

A form of legislation (designated with S.J. Res. or H.J. Res.) that is either:

(1) A congressional action typically used in dealing with matters such as a single appropriation for a specific purpose, increasing the statutory limit on the public debt, or continuing appropriations. There is no real difference between a bill and a joint resolution; both require a majority vote and become law in the same manner, that is, by bicameral enactment and signature of the President.

(2) A congressional action used to propose amendments to the Constitution. Adoption of a joint resolution to propose a constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote by both the Senate and the House and is not presented to the President for approval. A proposed amendment becomes effective only when ratified by three-fourths of the states.

(*See also* Continuing Appropriation/Continuing Resolution. For a distinction, *see* Concurrent Resolution on the Budget.)

Justification

The documents an agency submits to the appropriations committees in support of its budget request. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) prescribes justification materials, which typically explain changes between the current appropriation and the amounts requested for the next fiscal year.

L

Lease-Purchase

An agreement between a lessor and lessee in which the lessee agrees to lease a building or other property for a specified length of time and then takes title to the building or other property at the end of the lease period. (*See also* Capital Lease; Operating Lease.)

Liability

Defined differently for obligational (or budgetary) and proprietary (or financial) accounting purposes (*see* app. III).

Obligational (or budgetary) accounting, designed to ensure compliance with fiscal laws, is based on the concept of *legal* liability. A legal liability is a claim that may be legally enforced against the government. It may be created in a variety of ways, such as by signing a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement or by operation of law. (*See also* Obligation.)