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## **Backdoor Authority/Backdoor Spending**

A colloquial phrase for budget authority provided in laws other than appropriations acts, including contract authority and borrowing authority, as well as entitlement authority and the outlays that result from that budget authority. (*See also* Appropriations *and* Contract Authority *under* Forms of Budget Authority *under* Budget Authority; Authorizing Legislation; Entitlement Authority; Spending Committee.)

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## **Balanced Budget**

A budget in which receipts equal outlays. (*See also* Deficit; Surplus.)

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## **Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985**

Also known as the Deficit Control Act, originally known as Gramm-Rudman-Hollings. Among other changes to the budget process, the law established “maximum deficit amounts” and a sequestration procedure to reduce spending if those targets were exceeded. The Deficit Control Act has been amended and extended several times—most significantly by the Budget Enforcement Act (BEA) of 1990. The sequestration and enforcement mechanisms expired or became ineffective at the end of fiscal year 2002. (*See also* Budget Enforcement Act; Gramm-Rudman-Hollings.)

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## **Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Reaffirmation Act of 1987**

Amended the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Gramm-Rudman-Hollings) to extend the date for achieving the goal of a balanced budget until fiscal year 1993, revise sequestration procedures, and require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to determine whether a sequester is