

Appendix B

GLOSSARY OF FISCAL TERMS

Disbursement – In the context of the general fund balance discussions, disbursements refer to the outgo of funds, including appropriations to state government and other distributions. It includes various categories of appropriations that are defined in this glossary.

Feed Bill – refers to the appropriation(s) made to fund the operation of the state legislature when it meets in a regular or special session.

General Appropriations – refers to appropriations (1999 session) provided in HB 2, the general appropriations act, and SB 81, SB 100, and a portion of SB 184.

Local Assistance Appropriations – action taken by the 1999 legislature provided a net reduction in revenues of nearly \$30.0 million in general fund tax relief to taxpayers, primarily in property tax reductions. Additionally, local government tax revenues were reduced by \$139 million. To compensate for the revenue loss, the legislature appropriated \$73 million in SB 184 as a partial reimbursement to local governments.

Miscellaneous Appropriations – refers to appropriations that occur in bills other than those included under “general appropriations”. These bill are sometimes referred to as “cat and dog” bills.

Pay Plan Appropriations – refers to the appropriations provided in HB 13, the state employee pay plan bill.

Present Law – That additional level of funding needed under present laws to maintain operations and services at the level authorized by the previous legislature. This includes, but is not limited to: 1) legally mandated workload, caseload, or enrollment changes; 2) changes in funding requirements; 3) inflationary or deflationary adjustments; and 4) elimination of one-time appropriations.

Residual Transfers – identifies the amount of nonrecurring or nonroutine transfers of equity between accounting entities.

Revenue – In the context of the general fund and discussion of the general fund balance, revenue refers to the variety of sources of money that are deposited to the general fund. For the general fund, the primary sources are individual income taxes, property taxes, corporate income taxes, common school interest and income, permanent trust interest earnings, and insurance premium taxes. There are, however, many other sources that contribute varying amounts to the general fund.

Reversions – refer to the unspent portions of the various appropriations made to state government when the budget period has expired.

Statutory Appropriations – There are a number of appropriations made by permanent law that are in the language of specific statutes. 17-7-502, MCA, lists the sections of law that provide for statutory appropriations. They authorize spending by a state agency without the need for a temporary legislative appropriation.

Supplemental Appropriations – refers to additional spending authority sometimes allowed in instances when agencies experience unforeseen obligations.