

**TITLE 31 - MONEY AND FINANCE**  
**SUBTITLE II - THE BUDGET PROCESS**  
**CHAPTER 15 - APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTING**  
**SUBCHAPTER I - GENERAL**

**§ 1502. Balances available**

(a) The balance of an appropriation or fund limited for obligation to a definite period is available only for payment of expenses properly incurred during the period of availability or to complete contracts properly made within that period of availability and obligated consistent with section 1501 of this title. However, the appropriation or fund is not available for expenditure for a period beyond the period otherwise authorized by law.

(b) A provision of law requiring that the balance of an appropriation or fund be returned to the general fund of the Treasury at the end of a definite period does not affect the status of lawsuits or rights of action involving the right to an amount payable from the balance.

(Pub. L. 97–258, Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 928.)

**Historical and Revision Notes**

| Revised Section | Source (U.S. Code) | Source (Statutes at Large)                        |
|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 1502(a)         | 31:200(d).         | Aug. 26, 1954, ch. 935, § 1311(d), 68 Stat. 831.  |
|                 | 31:712a.           | July 6, 1949, ch. 299, § 1, 63 Stat. 407.         |
| 1502(b)         | 31:665b.           | July 1, 1973, Pub. L. 93–52, § 111, 87 Stat. 134. |

Subsection (a) restates the source provisions to eliminate unnecessary words and for consistency.

In subsection (b), the words “balance of an appropriation or fund” are substituted for “unexpended funds” for clarity and consistency in the revised chapter.

**Availability of Energy and Water Development Appropriations Limited to Fiscal Year In Which Appropriated**

Pub. L. 102–377, title V, § 501, Oct. 2, 1992, 106 Stat. 1342, provided that: “No part of any appropriation contained in this Act or subsequent Energy and Water Development Appropriations Acts shall remain available for obligation beyond the fiscal year specified in such Acts therein unless expressly so provided therein.”