

rather than businesses, and directs the CFPB to study the promotion of small business credit cards to the households of private individuals and to post online and disseminate publicly the report, including findings of whether targeted households are aware of their lack of consumer protections, relative to individual consumer credit cards.

The Committee includes the following provisions in the bill:

Section 501. The Committee repeals the prohibition against the Committees on Appropriations reviewing transfers from the Federal Reserve System to the CFPB. Congress has a duty to examine and critique the activities of the CFPB, especially since its expenditures, like any other Federal agency, contribute to a growing Federal debt.

Section 502. The Committee changes the CFPB's source of funding from transfers from the Federal Reserve System to annual appropriations beginning in fiscal year 2016. Under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, the CFPB can spend more than half a billion dollars without an annual review by Congress. The Committee believes the CFPB needs oversight as much as banks and nonbanks do and further reminds the CFPB to remain steadfast to its mission to promote fairness and transparency for mortgages, credit cards, and other consumer financial products and services and not to stray into consumer advocacy.

Section 503. The Committee appreciates the CFPB's practice of making its transfer requests to the Federal Reserve System and the response from the Federal Reserve System available on the Bureau's public website. The Committee codifies this practice and further requires the CFPB to notify Congress of when it makes such a request and to describe how the funds will be used in the course of protecting consumers.

Section 504. The Committee directs the CFPB to submit quarterly reports on its activities and to testify on its activities when requested. The report shall include, among other things, how the CFPB allocates its funds and staff.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriation, fiscal year 2014	\$118,000,000
Budget request, fiscal year 2015	123,000,000
Recommended in the bill	118,000,000
Bill compared with:	
Appropriation, fiscal year 2014	---
Budget request, fiscal year 2015	-5,000,000

The Consumer Product Safety Act established the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), an independent Federal regulatory agency, to reduce the risk of injury associated with consumer products.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$118,000,000 for the CPSC for fiscal year 2015.

Voluntary Recall.—As the agency with jurisdiction over tens of thousands of consumer products, the CPSC has the opportunity to leverage its resources and contacts within the manufacturing in-

dustry to help drive education campaigns related to proper use of consumer products. Through working with industry, voluntary recalls have been largely successful. This cooperative relationship with industry can help save lives and CPSC resources, which can then be devoted to product recalls and promulgating risk-based rules. The Committee is concerned about proposed changes to the voluntary recall system that would serve to negatively impact small businesses. The Committee opposes making unnecessary changes to a recall system that has worked well over the past 40 years, owing to a successful partnership between businesses and the Commission.

Public Disclosures of Information.—Section 6(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA) requires CPSC to take reasonable steps to ensure that any disclosure of information relating to a consumer product safety incident is accurate and fair. This congressional mandate protects the consumer by facilitating voluntary reporting by companies on potential product hazards and defects, while also ensuring a timely and thorough investigation is done to determine an appropriate corrective action plan. Proposed changes relating to voluntary reporting under section 6(b) of CPSA threaten to undermine a successful partnership based on openness and trust between industry and the Commission. The Committee cautions the Commission about making changes to a process that has succeeded in both protecting the consumer against harm and protecting industry against inaccurate disclosures of information before an investigation has been completed. The Committee expects the Commission to work with industry and stakeholders on ensuring the process for disclosing information on potential product hazards and defects is both timely and accurate.

Certifications of Compliance.—The Committee is concerned about proposed changes to current certification requirements that would impose costly and burdensome changes to companies who already comply with the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act's (CPSIA) certification requirements. Imposing costly and redundant processes on stakeholders without the added benefit of increased product safety is counterproductive.

Import Safety.—The Committee remains supportive of the Import Safety initiative which places CPSC investigators at key ports of entry in order to stop defective products from entering the United States. The CPSC's coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol is a cost effective and efficient use of CPSC resources and enforcement capabilities. The Committee believes resources in this area are being spent in a targeted and effective way and expects the CPSC to continue to devote resources to this program.

Pool and Spa Safety.—The Committee commends the CPSC for continuing to provide resources for the national and grassroots "Pool Safety" campaign, a safety information and education program designed to reduce child drownings and neardrowning injuries and maintain a zero fatality rate for drain entrapments. This multifaceted initiative includes consumer and industry education efforts, press events, partnerships, outreach, and advertising. In fiscal year 2014, the Committee provided \$1,000,000 for the pool and spa safety grants program established by the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. The Committee expects CPSC to expeditiously administer grant funding to eligible entities.

Chronic Hazard Advisory Panel.—The Committee understands concerns exist regarding the Chronic Hazard Advisory Panel (CHAP) reporting process. The Committee expects CPSC to be open and transparent to the public in regards to its involvement in the CHAP process and ensure an appropriate peer review process is in place and adequate opportunities exist for the public to submit information and present its views before the CHAP finalizes reports submitted to CPSC.

Window Coverings.—The Committee continues to support the cooperative efforts of CPSC and the window coverings industry to educate consumers on window covering safety. The Committee encourages continued cooperation between CPSC and industry on developing voluntary standards for its products through the current voluntary standards setting process.

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriation, fiscal year 2014	\$10,000,000
Budget request, fiscal year 2015	10,000,000
Recommended in the bill	---
Bill compared with:	
Appropriation, fiscal year 2014	- 10,000,000
Budget request, fiscal year 2015	- 10,000,000

The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) was established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) and is charged with implementing provisions of that Act relating to the reform of Federal election administration.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee strongly supports the successful administration of Federal elections and Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. However, the Committee believes the EAC is no longer effectively carrying out its mandate and should be eliminated. At present, all statutorily mandated positions are vacant and the agency has been operating without legislative authorization since 2005. The EAC has been unable to finalize rules approving new voting system standards to update those last updated in 2005, and it has been unable to hold hearings or rule on appeals. All of the funds appropriated for HAVA grants have been distributed to the States, and for five years the Administration has not requested additional grant funding. Without HAVA grants to distribute, the work of the EAC consists of auditing HAVA grant money previously distributed, a task carried out by the EAC Inspector General, and examining new voting technologies, a task largely performed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and private testing laboratories.

In February 2013, rather than turn to the EAC, the President chose to form a new ad hoc commission to review and propose best practices related to concerns from the 2012 election regarding polling place wait times, and military and oversees voting. This decision highlights the lack of confidence the Administration has in this agency.

This Committee is not advocating doing away with the changes made to voting law in HAVA. Rather, the Committee believes these