

for fiscal year 2015) and directs NSF to examine options for including such a factor with its fiscal year 2016 request. Those options should include both the calculation of an NSF research inflation factor or the adoption of an appropriate research inflation factor currently calculated and used by another Federal agency.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

The Committee recommends \$4,370,000 for the National Science Board, which is \$70,000 above fiscal year 2014 and the same as the request.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Committee recommends \$14,430,000 for the OIG, which is \$230,000 above fiscal year 2014 and the same as the request.

Management of large cooperative agreements.—The Committee remains interested in the OIG's efforts to reach consensus with NSF on the accountability and cost surveillance measures most appropriate for the management of large cooperative agreements. OIG shall keep the Committee apprised of any changes agreed to or agreements reached with NSF on this topic throughout the fiscal year.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

The bill includes a provision that establishes thresholds for the transfer of funds.

TITLE IV

RELATED AGENCIES

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends \$9,000,000 for the Commission on Civil Rights, which is the same as fiscal year 2014 and \$400,000 below the request.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends \$364,000,000 for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), which is the same as fiscal year 2014 and \$1,531,000 below the request. The recommendation includes language making up to \$29,500,000 available for payments to State and local enforcement agencies.

Backlog reduction.—The Committee is pleased with EEOC's progress in reducing the backlog of private sector charges. The Committee expects the EEOC to continue to prioritize inventory reduction and to examine new ways to address the backlog and increase productivity. EEOC shall continue to provide quarterly reports on the backlog, to include data on the number and pendency of charges and on any changes to EEOC's priority charge handling procedures and the effect of such changes on inventory reduction.

Conciliation.—The Committee is concerned with the EEOC's pursuit of litigation absent good faith conciliation efforts. The Com-

mittee directs the EEOC to engage in such efforts before undertaking litigation and to report, no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, on how it ensures that conciliation efforts are pursued in good faith.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The Committee recommends \$84,500,000 for the International Trade Commission (ITC), which is \$1,500,000 above fiscal year 2014 and \$1,959,000 below the request.

Internal controls.—The Committee is pleased with ITC's progress in addressing internal control issues identified in audits. However, ITC must continue to take aggressive action to address any remaining shortcomings.

Cybersecurity.—ITC handles sensitive and proprietary data and therefore is a potential target for cyber attacks. The Committee expects ITC to prioritize efforts to improve its cybersecurity posture. The Committee also encourages ITC to work with other relevant Federal agencies to inform its actions.

Bilateral Investment Treaty.—Should a Bilateral Investment Treaty with China be proposed, the ITC shall report to the Committee on how its implementation would help increase production by U.S.-invested enterprises in China to serve the U.S. market. In preparing this information, the ITC shall identify the impact that a treaty will have on the current estimate that 60 percent of Chinese exports to the U.S. are produced by foreign-invested enterprises operating in China. In addition, the ITC shall provide information on the extent to which the treaty would allow Chinese investors to seek redress for U.S. government legal, regulatory or other measures that they claim reduce the value of their investments in the United States.

Section 337.—The ITC has taken steps to address the growing strain on its resources caused by the increasing caseload of section 337 investigations, some of which are filed by patent assertion entities. The Committee directs ITC to provide a report, no later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, examining the feasibility of narrowing the ITC's existing interpretation of licensing activity to include only licensing that leads to the adoption and development of articles.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

The Committee recommends \$350,000,000 for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), which is \$15,000,000 below fiscal year 2014 and \$80,000,000 below the request.

Pro bono legal services.—The recommendation includes \$3,000,000 for the pro bono innovation fund, an increase of \$500,000 above fiscal year 2014 and \$1,900,000 below the request. Obtaining more services at no or low cost through private attorney involvement is one means for LSC to increase legal aid services. The Committee is pleased that LSC launched a pro bono task force in 2011, which released its findings and recommendations in October 2012. The Committee directs LSC to implement the rec-