



SENATE

S. No. 2368

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CURRENCIES AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY, PEACE, UNIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION WITH SENATORS ZUBIRI, POE AND VILLANUEVA AS AUTHORS THEREOF

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE PHILIPPINE VETERANS BANK, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3518, AS AMENDED

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the
2 “Philippine Veterans Bank Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – In order to give
4 meaning and realization to the constitutional mandate of
5 providing immediate and adequate benefits and other
6 forms of assistance to all Filipino war veterans, and the
7 retired military personnel, including their surviving

1 spouses, orphans, and compulsory heirs in recognition of
2 the patriotic services in times of war and peace for the
3 cause of freedom and democracy, it is hereby declared the
4 policy of the State to execute a viable plan that will
5 promote the welfare of all Filipino war veterans and
6 retired military personnel. In line with this policy, the
7 State shall foster their socio-economic security and general
8 well-being, by extending to them substantial support for
9 their livelihood and income-generating projects, through
10 the efficient and effective revitalization of the Philippine
11 Veterans Bank, hereinafter known as "Veterans Bank",
12 which is deeply imbued with public interest.

13 SEC. 3. *Name, Domicile and Place of Business.* –
14 There is hereby created the Philippine Veterans Bank
15 which shall be commonly called the "Veterans Bank",
16 whose principal domicile and place of business shall be at
17 PVB Building 101 V.A. Rufino corner Dela Rosa Streets,
18 Legaspi Village, Makati City, but branches or agencies
19 may be established in other provinces and cities as the
20 Board of Directors may decide.

1 SEC. 4. *Corporate Powers and Duties.* – The Veterans

2 Bank shall have the power:

3 (a) To promulgate its by-laws;

4 (b) To adopt and use a seal;

5 (c) To sue and be sued;

6 (d) To carry on a trust business subject to
7 compliance with pertinent provisions of laws and in
8 accordance with the applicable Bangko Sentral ng
9 Pilipinas (BSP) rules and regulations;

10 (e) To grant loans and advances in accordance with
11 Republic Act No. 8791 otherwise known as “The General
12 Banking Law of 2000” and the BSP rules and regulations,
13 with preference given to veterans defined in Section 6(a)
14 hereof;

15 (f) To invest in stocks and other investment
16 instruments in accordance with Republic Act No. 8791 and
17 the BSP rules and regulations;

18 (g) To issue bonds and offer certificates of
19 indebtedness in accordance with Republic Act No. 8791
20 and the BSP rules and regulations;

1 (h) To contract any obligation, or enter into any
2 agreement essential to the proper management of its
3 corporate powers and carry out its aims and purposes;

4 (i) To appoint and dismiss its officers and
5 employees;

6 (j) To create and/or make equity investments to
7 subsidiaries and affiliates or privately owned financial
8 institutions, subject to such limitations prescribed by
9 Republic Act No. 8791 and the BSP rules and regulations;

10 (k) To exercise the powers granted in this Act and
11 such incidental powers as may be necessary to carry on
12 and engage in the business of general banking; and

13 (l) To exercise the general powers mentioned in
14 Republic Act No. 11232, otherwise known as the "Revised
15 Corporation Code of the Philippines" and Republic Act No.
16 8791, in so far as they are not inconsistent or incompatible
17 with the provisions of this Act.

18 SEC. 5. *Authorized Capital Stock, Par Value.* –

19 (a) The capital stock of the Veterans Bank shall be
20 Ten billion pesos (P10,000,000,000.00) divided into

1 seventy-five million (75,000,000) common shares and
2 twenty-five million (25,000,000) preferred shares with a
3 par value of One hundred pesos (P100.00) each. The Board
4 of Directors and stockholders are hereby authorized to
5 increase the authorized capital stock and provide the
6 features of preferred shares, subject to pertinent laws and
7 BSP and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules
8 and regulations.

9 (b) The seventy-five million (75,000,000) common
10 shares shall include: (1) the original five hundred ten
11 thousand (510,000) common shares subscribed and fully
12 paid by the government for and in behalf of the World War
13 II veterans and was already issued/transferred to the said
14 veterans; (2) the stock dividends on common shares issued
15 to the stockholders; (3) the common shares issued to the
16 stockholders representing subscription on increases in the
17 authorized capital stock, common, approved by the SEC as
18 of the date of the effectivity of this Act. The unsubscribed
19 balance shall be opened for subscription by the existing
20 stockholders and the other veterans entitled to benefit

1 from this Act as described in Section 6(a) hereof. The
2 twenty-five million (25,000,000) preferred shares shall
3 include: (1) the original four hundred ninety thousand
4 (490,000) preferred shares subscribed and fully paid by the
5 veterans; (2) the stock dividends on preferred shares issued
6 to the stockholders. The unsubscribed shares on increases
7 in the authorized capital stock, preferred, approved by the
8 SEC as of the date of the effectivity of this Act, shall be
9 opened for subscription by the existing stockholders and
10 the other veterans entitled to benefit from this Act as
11 described in Section 6(a) hereof. The transfer of the share/s
12 of a veteran to the widow, orphan or compulsory heir of a
13 veteran by way of succession or donation shall not be
14 subject to tax. Shares may be opened for investment to
15 nonveterans: *Provided*, That at all times the majority of
16 both common and preferred shares shall be held by the
17 veterans as defined under this Act.

18 (c) The Board of Trustees of the Veterans of World
19 War II, provided for under Section 24 hereof, which was
20 originally designated as such under Section 8 of Republic

1 Act No. 7169, otherwise known as "An Act to Rehabilitate
2 the Philippine Veterans Bank", shall continue to be the
3 trustee of all issued but undelivered common and preferred
4 shares.

5 SEC. 6. *Determination of Veterans Entitled to Benefit*
6 *from this Act.* –

7 (a) The term "veteran or veterans" shall include
8 primarily any person or persons who served in the
9 regularly constituted air, land, or naval services or arms,
10 or in such non-regularly organized military units in the
11 Philippines during World War II, and whose services with
12 such units are duly recognized by the Republic of the
13 Philippines or by the government of the United States of
14 America: *Provided*, That for the purposes of this Act, the
15 term "veteran or veterans" also includes the widow, orphan
16 or a compulsory heir of a deceased veteran, as determined
17 by existing laws; and those veterans referred to under
18 Republic Act No. 6948, as amended by Republic Act No.
19 7696 and Republic Act No. 9396: *Provided*, That post-
20 World War II veterans and Armed Forces of the

1 Philippines (AFP) retirees shall enjoy the benefits and
2 privileges provided under this Act after they have invested
3 in the Veterans Bank.

4 (b) The term "organized or acknowledged veterans
5 organizations" as used in this Act shall mean a veterans
6 organization duly recognized or acknowledged as such by
7 the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) and the
8 AFP. Both shall keep an official roster of such veterans
9 organizations.

10 (c) The share of each beneficiary, war veteran or
11 widow, orphan or compulsory heir of a deceased veteran, in
12 the distribution of the benefits and in the ownership of
13 shares, will be equal, regardless of rank and services
14 rendered: *Provided*, That in the case of orphan or orphans
15 of a deceased veteran, they shall be counted as one unit
16 only and the share of all of them regardless of their
17 number will be the same or equal to that of a surviving war
18 veteran or surviving widow.

19 SEC. 7. *Loans, Investments, and Liabilities.* – The
20 Veterans Bank is hereby authorized:

1 (a) To grant loans, advances, or other credit
2 accommodations for the establishment, rehabilitation,
3 expansion, or development of any agricultural, commercial
4 or industrial enterprise, or personal service, including
5 public utilities, in accordance with Republic Act No. 8791,
6 the BSP rules and regulations, and under such terms as
7 may be prescribed by the Board of Directors and that
8 preference be given to applicants who are veterans as
9 defined under Section 6(a) hereof, subject to pertinent BSP
10 rules and regulations;

11 (b) To invest in stocks and other investment
12 instruments subject to Republic Act No. 8791, and the BSP
13 rules and regulations;

14 (c) To issue bonds and other certificates of
15 indebtedness subject to Republic Act No. 8791, and the
16 BSP rules and regulations.

17 SEC. 8. *Qualifications and Per Diems of the Board of*
18 *Directors.* –

19 (a) The affairs and business of the Veterans Bank
20 shall be directed and its property managed, controlled and

1 preserved, unless otherwise provided in this Act, by a
2 Board of Directors consisting of fifteen (15) members, five
3 (5) of whom shall be independent directors, who shall be
4 elected as provided in Section 22 of Republic Act No.
5 11232. The Board of Directors shall be elected in
6 proportion to the shareholdings of veterans and
7 nonveterans. They shall have formal business training
8 and/or experience in banking and finance and possess the
9 qualifications and none of the disqualifications of directors
10 as prescribed under the BSP rules and regulations, and
11 shall be elected annually by the stockholders in the
12 manner prescribed by Republic Act No. 11232: *Provided,*
13 That unless otherwise allowed under BSP rules and
14 regulations, no director, officer, or employee of any other
15 bank shall be eligible as a member of the Board of
16 Directors of the Veterans Bank, except for independent
17 directors. The members of the Board of Directors shall
18 receive a per diem or allowance for every meeting of the
19 board actually attended by them, the amount of which
20 shall be within the acceptable banking industry rates and

1 shall be set in accordance with the pertinent provisions of
2 Republic Act No. 11232;

3 (b) The Board of Directors, shall upon a majority
4 vote of all its members, elect its Chairperson, Vice
5 Chairperson, and Secretary, at such time and place as
6 shall be provided for in its by-laws.

7 SEC. 9. *Powers and Functions of the Board of*
8 *Directors.* – The Board of Directors shall:

9 (a) Formulate policies necessary to carry out
10 effectively the provisions of this Act and adopt such by-
11 laws rules and regulations for the effective operation of the
12 Bank in conformity with this Act and other existing laws;

13 (b) Determine the organization of the Bank by
14 creating the necessary departments or offices as are
15 essential for the efficient operation of the Bank;

16 (c) Subject to prior approval of the Monetary Board,
17 establish branches or agencies in other countries; and

18 (d) Create an executive committee and such other
19 committees as it may deem necessary and proper in the
20 conduct of the business of the corporation, with

1 composition, powers and duties as it may prescribe, subject
2 to BSP rules and regulations, and act on all matters
3 affecting general policies of the Bank.

4 *Sec. 10. President and Vice-Presidents; Appointment*
5 *and Removal; Salaries.* – The chief operating officer of the
6 Bank shall be the President who shall be chosen by the
7 Board of Directors. The President shall be assisted by such
8 number of Vice-Presidents who shall be elected and may be
9 removed by the Board of Directors. The President and the
10 Vice-Presidents shall possess practical experience in
11 banking and finance as top executives, at least ten (10)
12 years for the President and at least five (5) years for the
13 Vice-Presidents. The salaries of the President and the Vice-
14 Presidents shall be reasonable, and shall be set and
15 approved by the Board of Directors in accordance with
16 applicable laws and sound corporate governance practices.

17 *SEC. 11. Duties and Powers of the President.* – The
18 President of the Bank shall, among others, execute and
19 administer the policies, measures, orders, and resolutions

1 approved by the Board of Directors, and direct and
2 supervise the operation and administration of the Bank.

3 Particularly, the President shall have the power and
4 duty to:

5 (a) Approve loans, investments, and other
6 instruments in accordance with Republic Act No. 8791 and
7 the existing BSP rules and regulations: *Provided*, That the
8 total amount of such loans, investments and other
9 instruments shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the paid-
10 up capital and surplus: *Provided, further*, That any loan,
11 investment and other instrument in excess therewith shall
12 be approved by the Board of Directors;

13 (b) Make, with the advice and consent of the Board
14 of Directors, all contracts on behalf of the said Bank and
15 enter into all necessary obligations that this Act requires
16 or permits;

17 (c) Report monthly to the Board of Directors the
18 main facts concerning the operations of the Bank during
19 the preceding month and to suggest changes in rates of

1 discount of interest, exchange, or policy which to him may
2 seem best; and

3 (d) Exercise such other powers and perform such
4 other duties as may be directed by the Board of Directors
5 from time to time.

6 SEC. 12. *Legal Counsel.* – The Veterans Bank shall
7 have its own legal department, the chief and members of
8 which shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The
9 Board may engage the professional services of private
10 external legal counsel whenever deemed necessary.

11 SEC. 13. *Bank Auditor Reports.* – The Veterans Bank
12 shall have its own auditing department, the head of which
13 shall be appointed by the Board of Directors preferably
14 from among recognized veterans or their heirs of good
15 standing who are certified public accountants and with
16 actual experience in the work of a comptroller or auditor.
17 The auditor shall not suffer any diminution in salary
18 during the auditor's term of office, and may not be removed
19 except for cause.

1 The auditor shall make a report to the Board of
2 Directors and to government regulatory authorities on the
3 condition of the Bank. The Board of Directors shall set the
4 frequency of submission of the auditor's report to the
5 Board, subject to BSP rules and regulations.

6 SEC. 14. *Appointments, Removal and Salaries of other*
7 *Bank Officers.* – All other officers of the Bank shall be
8 appointed and removed by the Board of Directors upon
9 recommendation of the human resources committee of the
10 Board: *Provided, however,* That all other circumstances
11 being equal, preference in the appointment of said Bank
12 officers shall be given to veterans, or their widows, orphans
13 or compulsory heirs, who must likewise possess the
14 qualifications, integrity, experience and expertise in
15 banking and finance under pertinent BSP rules and
16 regulations. Said officers shall have duties and
17 compensation which shall be set by the human resources
18 committee with the approval of the Board of Directors.

19 SEC. 15. *Supervision and Examination of the BSP.* –
20 The Veterans Bank shall be subject to supervision and

1 examination by the BSP in accordance with Republic Act
2 No. 7653 otherwise known as "The New Central Bank Act",
3 as amended, and Republic Act No. 8791.

4 SEC. 16. *Prohibition Against Owning Stock in or*
5 *Incurring Indebtedness to the Bank.* – The Secretary of
6 Finance, the Governor of the BSP, all other members of the
7 Monetary Board, and the Head of the Auditing
8 Department of the Veterans Bank, except if the said Head
9 of the Auditing Department is a veteran stockholder or
10 heir, are hereby prohibited from owning stock in the
11 Veterans Bank, or from becoming indebted to said Bank,
12 directly or indirectly.

13 SEC. 17. *Loans to Officers, Directors, and Employees;*
14 *Restriction and Limitation.* – The Veterans Bank shall not
15 directly or indirectly grant loans to any director, officer,
16 employee, or agent of the Bank, and no loans shall be
17 granted to a corporation, partnership, or company wherein
18 any member of the Board of Directors is a shareholder,
19 agent or employee in any manner, except by the
20 unanimous vote of the members of the Board present in a

1 meeting, excluding the interested member: *Provided*, That
2 the total liabilities to the Bank of any corporation wherein
3 any member of the Board of Directors of the Veterans
4 Bank is a shareholder, agent or employee in any manner,
5 shall at no time exceed five percent (5%) of the surplus and
6 paid-up capital of the Bank.

7 SEC. 18. *Authority to Purchase and Own Such Real*
8 *Estate as May Be Necessary for the Purpose of Carrying On*
9 *its Business.* – The Veterans Bank is hereby authorized to
10 hold such real estate as it may find necessary to acquire in
11 the collection of debts due to the said Bank or to its
12 branches: *Provided*, That the real estate acquired in the
13 collection of debts shall be sold by the Bank within five (5)
14 years after the date of its acquisition.

15 SEC. 19. *Right of Redemption of Property Foreclosed.* –
16 The mortgagor shall have the right, within one (1) year
17 after the sale of the real estate as a result of the
18 foreclosure of a mortgage, to redeem the property by
19 paying the amount fixed by the court in the order of
20 execution, with interest thereon at the rate specified in the

1 mortgage, and all the costs and other judicial expenses
2 incurred by the Bank by reason of the execution and sale,
3 and for the custody of said property.

4 SEC. 20. *Right to Demand Additional Securities;*
5 *Disposal of Same Securities; Advanced Maturity of Credits;*
6 *Right to Collect Deficiency.* – The right of Veterans Bank to
7 demand additional securities, dispose of the same, advance
8 the maturity of credits in case of loss or decline in the
9 market value of the collaterals, default or non-performance
10 of obligation by the debtor, and collect deficiency, if any, for
11 loans and other credit accommodations granted under or
12 against securities and collaterals, shall be subject to the
13 provisions of Republic Act No. 8791 and other applicable
14 laws on collaterals, mortgage, foreclosure and redemption,
15 and their implementing rules and regulations.

16 SEC. 21. *Action to Collect Balance of Indebtedness.* – If
17 the proceeds of the sale of securities held as collateral for
18 loans by said Bank do not cover the full amount of the loan,
19 together with the interest and other charges thereon, the
20 Bank may proceed against the debtor for the difference:

1 *Provided*, That any amount exceeding the full indebtedness
2 to the Bank shall be paid to the debtor.

3 SEC. 22. *Prohibition Against Charging Fees in*
4 *Securing Loans; Penalties for Violation.* – No fee, charge or
5 commission in any form shall be exacted, demanded, or
6 paid, for obtaining loans, directly or indirectly, by any
7 director, officer, employee, or agent of the Veterans Bank.
8 Any director, officer, employee or agent so exacting,
9 demanding or receiving any fee for the service or for the
10 use of the influence in obtaining a loan shall be punished
11 by a fine of not exceeding One hundred thousand pesos
12 (P100,000.00) or by imprisonment of not more than five (5)
13 years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

14 SEC. 23. *Allocation of Net Profit and Unrestricted*
15 *Retained Earnings.* – At the close of each calendar year,
16 the Bank shall include in the determination of its net profit
17 the provisions for impairment allowances, in accordance
18 with pertinent BSP rules and regulations, and the net
19 profit arrived thereat shall be allocated, as follows:

1 (a) Twenty percent (20%) of such net profit shall
2 accrue to the reserve account;

3 (b) From the remaining amount of the net profit
4 after deducting the amount accrued to the reserve account
5 shall be deducted the guaranteed earnings of the preferred
6 shares and the ten percent (10%) dividends on common
7 shares: *Provided, however,* That the declaration of these
8 dividends shall be out of the unrestricted and free retained
9 earnings in accordance with the pertinent provisions of
10 Republic Act No. 11232, Republic Act No. 8791, and the
11 BSP rules and regulations.

12 Thereafter, twenty percent (20%) of the net profit
13 after deducting the guaranteed earnings of the preferred
14 shares and the ten percent (10%) dividends on common
15 shares, or the amount of Thirty million pesos
16 (P30,000,000.00), whichever is lower shall be paid in cash
17 to the Board of Trustees of the Veterans of World War II
18 (BTVWWII) as hereinafter provided in Section 24 hereof
19 for disposition and shall be available for 'grants-in-aid' to
20 veterans, their widows, orphans, or compulsory heirs, for

1 educational, social, charitable, and rehabilitation purposes,
2 to organizations doing service for the cause of the veterans,
3 and for such other purposes beneficial to the veterans,
4 which maximum limit may be increased upon mutual
5 agreement between Veterans Bank and the BTVWWII:
6 *Provided*, That the latter shall render an accounting of the
7 funds received from the former and shall be audited
8 annually by a reputable external auditing firm.

9 The remaining profits shall be at the disposition of
10 the Board of Directors of Veterans Bank in accordance
11 with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 11232,
12 Republic Act No. 8791, and the BSP rules and regulations.

13 SEC. 24. *Board of Trustees of the Veterans of World*
14 *War II to be Reorganized as Board of Trustees of Veterans.*

15 - When the shareholdings of the post-World War II
16 veterans and AFP retirees have surpassed the
17 shareholdings of the veterans of World War II and their
18 compulsory heirs, then the BTVWWII shall be reorganized
19 into the Board of Trustees of Veterans as defined in Sec.
20 6(a) of this Act. It shall consist of eleven (11) members who

1 shall be elected from among all the veterans by the
2 stockholders of the Veterans Bank in its annual
3 stockholders meeting. Immediately after their election, the
4 members of the Board of Trustees shall elect from among
5 themselves a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson. The
6 members of the Board of Trustees shall serve without
7 compensation other than actual and necessary expenses
8 incurred either in attendance upon meetings of the board
9 or upon other official business authorized by resolution
10 thereof: *Provided, however,* That a vote of the majority of
11 all the members shall be necessary to authorize the
12 disposal of the funds held by the board.

13 The Board of Trustees shall appoint a Secretary and
14 such other necessary officials and employees. The
15 compensation of these officials and employees shall be
16 reasonable and in accordance with applicable laws and
17 sound corporate governance practices. All the powers,
18 privileges, duties and responsibilities of the previous
19 BTVWWII shall be transferred to the new Board of
20 Veterans.

1 SEC. 25. *Term of Legal Existence.* – The legal
2 existence of the Bank under this Act shall be perpetual in
3 accordance with Section 11 of Republic Act No. 11232.

4 SEC. 26. *Prohibition Against the Use of the Word*
5 *“Veterans”; Penalty for Violation.* – All banks other than
6 the Veterans Bank, and such other banks now licensed to
7 do business in the Philippines whose names already
8 include the word “veterans” are prohibited from using the
9 word “veterans” as a part of their names or titles. Any
10 party violating this provision shall be subject to a fine of
11 not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) for each day
12 during which said violation is committed or repeated,
13 which penalty shall be enforced by the Veterans Bank.

14 SEC. 27. *Penalties for Violation of the Provisions of*
15 *this Act.* – Any director, officer, employee, or agent of the
16 Bank who violates or permits the violation of any of the
17 provisions of this Act, or any person aiding or abetting the
18 violation of any provision of this Act, shall be punished by
19 a fine not exceeding One hundred thousand pesos

1 (P100,000.00) or imprisonment of not more than five (5)
2 years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

3 SEC. 28. *Authority to Receive Deposit of the*
4 *Government Funds as an Official Government Depository.* –
5 The Secretary of Finance, the National Treasurer, and
6 their authorized representatives, all city and municipal
7 treasurers as well as official custodians of public funds, or
8 those belonging to government-owned or -controlled
9 corporations are hereby authorized, if they so desire, to
10 make and actually maintain deposits of any government or
11 corporate fund with the Veterans Bank, which is hereby
12 declared to be an official government depository.

13 SEC. 29. *Articles of Incorporation.* – Upon its
14 approval, this Act shall be deemed and accepted, for all
15 legal intents and purposes, as the statutory Articles of
16 Incorporation or charter of the Veterans Bank; and that,
17 notwithstanding the provisions of any existing law to the
18 contrary, said Bank shall continue to be deemed registered
19 and duly authorized to do business and operate as a

1 private commercial bank as of the date of approval of this
2 Act.

3 SEC. 30. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this
4 Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, all other provisions
5 not affected thereby shall remain valid.

6 SEC. 31. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 3518,
7 as amended, is hereby repealed. The provisions of Republic
8 Act No. 7169 and the existing Articles of Incorporation of
9 the Veterans Bank approved by the BSP and the SEC
10 which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this
11 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly: *Provided,*
12 That insofar as not inconsistent with this Act, the
13 operations and changes in the capital structure of the
14 Veterans Bank, the upgrade or downgrade of its license,
15 and change of its principal office address as well as other
16 amendments to its Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws,
17 shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 11232,
18 Republic Act No. 8791, and other related laws. The
19 provisions of the existing by-laws of Veterans Bank
20 approved by the BSP and the SEC which are inconsistent

1 with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
2 or modified accordingly. All laws, acts, executive orders,
3 administrative orders, proclamations, rules and
4 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any of the
5 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
6 accordingly.

7 SEC. 32. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen
8 (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a
9 newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,