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Policies and Benefits

ERS revs up savings with new Commuter Spending Accounts

Beginning in 2016, some Texas state employees will be able to use the Employees Retirement System's new Commuter Spending Account (CSA) program, saving money by setting aside pre-tax salary funds to pay for eligible parking and transit expenses.

Beginning January 1, the ERS will make two types of CSAs available to state of Texas employees:

- The parking account pays for eligible parking expenses either near the employee's workplace or at a location from which the employee commutes to work via mass transit or van pool.
- The transit account pays for eligible mass transit, like bus or train tickets, or van pool expenses associated with travel to and from work.

Generally, a vehicle is eligible for van pool expenses if it seats at least six adults, not including the driver, and at least 80 percent of its mileage is used to transport employees to and from places of employment.

Because this program allows for tax-savings, it's regulated by the Internal Revenue Service and current IRS rules exclude gas and toll-road fees from the CSA program. Parking account expenses can be paid using the

Employees Retirement System's standard TexFlex debit card or by submitting paper claims for reimbursement. Transit account expenses can only be paid by using the debit card.

For more information about Commuter Spending Accounts visit the TexFlex website or call ADP, the program's third-party administrator, at 844-884-2364 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays. ●

