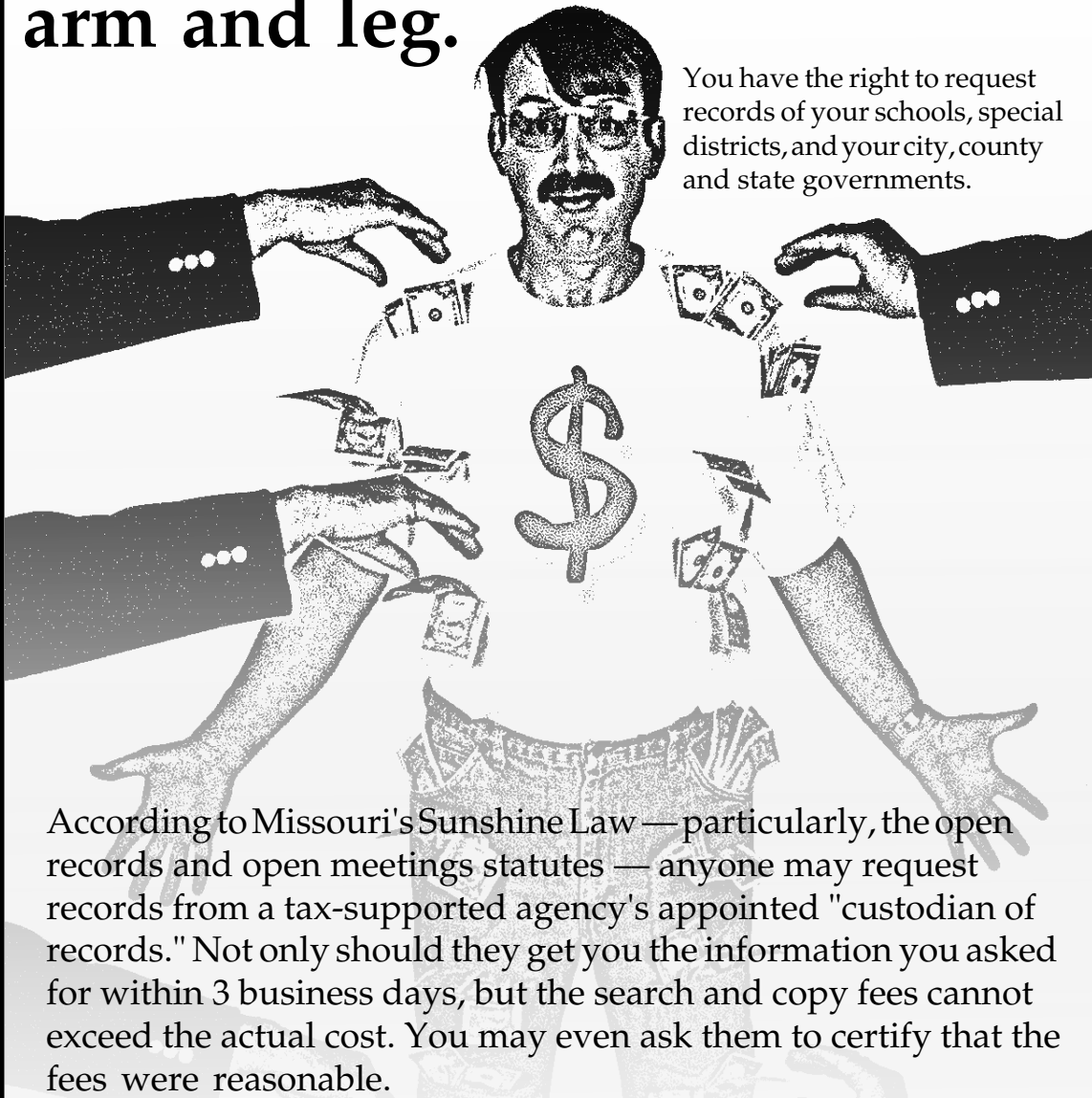


Getting copies of public records shouldn't cost you an arm and leg.

You have the right to request records of your schools, special districts, and your city, county and state governments.



According to Missouri's Sunshine Law — particularly, the open records and open meetings statutes — anyone may request records from a tax-supported agency's appointed "custodian of records." Not only should they get you the information you asked for within 3 business days, but the search and copy fees cannot exceed the actual cost. You may even ask them to certify that the fees were reasonable.

The Sunshine Law is a law for everyone, not just the news media. The Missouri Press Association and this newspaper ask you to support openness in local and state government records and meetings. Democracy, after all, does not work if meetings are held in secret or information is expensive to obtain.



Missouri Sunshine **LAW**