

\$3.25  
Wednesday,  
July 2, 2025

# Portland Press Herald

WEATHER:  
Clouds, warm  
and humid  
High 86°  
Details, C6

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## Collins votes ‘no’ as Senate approves Trump’s policy bill

### Narrow passage in Senate sends measure to House for final vote

By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and MATT BROWN  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans hauled President Donald Trump’s big tax breaks and spending cuts bill to passage Tuesday by the narrowest of margins, pushing past opposition from Democrats

and their own GOP ranks after a turbulent overnight session. The outcome capped an unusually tense weekend of work at the Capitol, the president’s signature legislative priority teetering on the edge of approval or collapse.

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On Tuesday, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she objected to health care cuts in the policy bill. (J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP)

Maine’s senior senator is one of three Republicans to oppose the legislation, which passed after Vice President JD Vance broke the 50-50 tie.

By RANDY BILLINGS  
*Staff Writer*

Sen. Susan Collins on Tuesday voted against President Donald Trump’s sweeping domestic policy bill that would cut \$1 trillion in health care and food assistance while strengthening border security and extending tax cuts that disproportionately benefit wealthy Americans. Collins was one of three Republicans to join Senate Democrats and vote against the proposal, which included a \$5 trillion increase to the debt limit. But her opposition was not enough to stop the bill. It led to a 50-50 tie, broken by Vice President JD Vance.

■ **MAINE POLITICAL LEADERS** decry passage of spending plan / **A6**

The bill now goes back to the House of Representatives, which passed a different version by a single vote last month. In a written statement, Collins said she opposed the bill mostly because of the health care cuts, although she expressed support for work requirements that critics say will cause people to lose Medicaid simply because of the additional paperwork.

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## TODAY’S ALMANAC

July 2, 2025

Today is the 183rd day of 2025. There are 182 days left in the year.

### Today in history:

On July 2, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law a sweeping civil rights bill passed by Congress prohibiting discrimination and segregation based on race, color, sex, religion or national origin.

### Also on this date:

In 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying that “these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States.”

In 1881, President James A. Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau at the Washington railroad station; Garfield died the following September. (Guiteau was hanged in June 1882.)

In 1917, rioting erupted in East St. Louis, Illinois, as white mobs attacked Black residents; at least 50 and as many as 200 people, most of them Black, are believed to have died in the violence.

In 1937, aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to make the first round-the-world flight along the equator.

**Today’s Birthdays:** Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos is 96. Actor Polly Holliday is 88. Racing Hall of Famer Richard Petty is 88. Former White House chief of staff and former New Hampshire governor John H. Sununu is 86. Writer-director-comedian Larry David is 78. Rock musician Roy Bittan (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 76. Actor Wendy Schaal is 71. Actor-model Jerry Hall is 69. Former baseball player Jose Canseco is 61. Race car driver Sam Hornish Jr. is 46. Former NHL center Joe Thornton is 46. Singer Michelle Branch is 42. Actor Vanessa Lee Chester is 41. Retired figure skater Johnny Weir is 41. Actor-singer Ashley Tisdale is 40. Actor Lindsay Lohan is 39.

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## IT’S THE DESTINATION



With the colossal Island Princess floating behind her and reflected at right, Joan Gibson-Parkes, a passenger visiting from New Rochelle, N.Y., poses after the cruise ship made port in Portland Harbor on Tuesday. Gibson-Parkes says she is taking the cruise with her daughter. The 964-foot ship is capable of carrying 2,200 passengers.

DEREK DAVIS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



MSAD 54 Superintendent Jon Moody works with a student during an after-school program at Skowhegan Area Middle School in 2023. (ANNA CHADWICK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

“It is incredibly frustrating for the government to create this kind of uncertainty for our public schools and the children and families they serve.”

JON MOODY  
*Superintendent of Skowhegan-based Maine School Administrative District 54*

## Education department withholds some Title funds for Maine

The federal money was expected to be disbursed to states Tuesday, the start of the fiscal year for many school districts; it may be delayed until the fall.

By EMILY DUGGAN and RILEY BOARD  
*Staff Writers*

The U.S. Department of Education is freezing some federal grant money that was expected to be distributed to public school districts across the country, including in Maine, starting Tuesday.

The federal agency told states it was still reviewing grant funding because of a commitment to “ensuring taxpayer resources are spent in accordance with the President’s priorities and the Department’s statutory responsibilities.” The Trump administration said that it is withholding \$6 billion in previously approved grant money nationally. Across Maine, school superintendents

and officials say the delay is frustrating. They fear that if federal funds are cut, the burden for bridging that budget gap will fall on local property taxpayers.

The Maine Department of Education sent a priority notice Friday, alerting school districts and notifying them the delay may last until September.

“As a friendly reminder, school administrative units may not begin to obligate funding for these programs until grant allocations have been finalized by the U.S. Department of Education,” the notice from the Maine Department of Education said.

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## Haitians in Maine facing deportations once protections end

Hundreds will be affected when the Trump administration undoes a 2010 designation that has allowed refugees to stay and work in the U.S. if their home country is deemed unsafe due to war or natural disaster.

By DYLAN TUSINSKI  
*Staff Writer*

Hundreds of Haitians living in Maine under temporary protected status may soon face the possibility of deportations after the federal government announced it will revoke legal protections for those fleeing civil war and natural disasters, which have ravaged the country in recent decades.

The termination of temporary protected status, or TPS, will affect some 500,000 Haitians in the U.S. legally, at least 200 of whom are in Maine, according to the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project.

TPS allows people to live in the U.S. when their homelands are made unsafe by wars or natural disasters. It has been given to immigrants from countries marred by civil conflict like Afghanistan or rocked by natural disasters like Nepal. The Trump administration has terminated TPS for both of those countries as well.

The Department of Homeland Security posted a formal notice Tuesday that it is terminating TPS for Haiti effective Sept. 2, saying in a memo that while the country is still consumed by violent conflict, “it is contrary to the national interest to permit Haitian nationals (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Haiti) to remain temporarily in the United States.”

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