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## OLR Bill Analysis

### SB 306

#### ***AN ACT ALLOCATING FUNDING FOR THE PROVISION OF POTABLE WATER TO CERTAIN COMMUNITIES AND REAUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO PROVIDE POTABLE WATER TO COMMUNITIES UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill reinstates a requirement for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner, within available appropriations, to arrange for potable drinking water to be provided on a short-term basis to residences and elementary and secondary schools affected by groundwater pollution. Under the bill, he must provide this water until the earlier of (1) compliance by the person who receives a DEEP order to supply the water or (2) a long-term potable water supply is provided. (PA 13-247, § 37, eliminated this requirement.)

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, if the (1) DEEP commissioner determines that groundwater pollution has occurred or is reasonably expected to occur and (2) public health commissioner determines that the pollution creates or is reasonably expected to create an unacceptable risk to people using the water for drinking or other domestic or personal uses, the DEEP commissioner may order the person or municipality responsible for the pollution to provide potable drinking water to everyone affected by it.

The bill also authorizes up to \$2 million in state general obligation bonds for DEEP to use to fund a new water main in the Lyman Drive area of Torrington to provide residents with potable drinking water. The bonds are subject to standard statutory bond issuance procedures and repayment requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

**BACKGROUND**

***Related Bill***

sHB 5420, File 407, favorably reported by the Environment Committee, permits funds from a DEEP potable water grant program to be used for municipal public health and firefighting water needs.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/17/2014)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 49 Nay 0 (04/01/2014)