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**KEY WORD** : OPINION / JOB PERFORMANCE / AUTHORITY / THE SANITARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN / THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, B.E.2535

SANIT NAITHO : THE SANITARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN'S OPINIONS ON AUTHORITY AND JOB PERFORMANCE ACCORDING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, B.E.2535.

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The objectives of this research were to study the Sanitary Committee chairmen's opinions on authority and job performance according to the Public Health Act, B.E.2535. The study samples were 209 Sanitary Committee chairmen working in all regions of Thailand. They were randomly selected by Proportional Stratified Random Sampling technique. The questionnaires were mailed during March 1, 1997 - June 30, 1997 and all of returned questionnaires were analyzed by using the Statistical Package for the Social Science/Personal Computer Plus (SPSS/PC+), including frequency, percentage, arithmetic mean, standard deviation, t-test, One-Way Analysis of Variance (One-Way ANOVA), and Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient.

The results showed that the Sanitary Committee chairmen's opinions on authority of local officials related to the Public Health Act, B.E.2535 was in high level. They had working factors in intermediate level. Their job performance according to the Public Health Act, B.E.2535 was in low level. The Sanitary Committee chairmen who were different in lawful practice had significantly different levels of opinion on authority of local officials related to the Public Health Act, B.E.2535 ( $p = 0.043$ ). The Sanitary Committee chairmen who were different in demographic characteristics had no significantly different levels of job performance according to the Public Health Act, B.E.2535. Working factors, including all work-itself and recognition of Sanitary Committee chairmen were significantly related to their job performance according to the Public Health Act, B.E.2535 ( $r = 0.146, p = 0.035$ ), ( $r = 0.143, p = 0.039$ ). The main job performance problems and obstacles were lack of budget, equipment and manpower. The Sanitary Committee chairmen and local officers had insufficient knowledge of authority of local officials related to the Public Health Act, B.E.2535.

The research results suggest that there should be seminars on authority of local officials related to the Public Health Act, B.E.2535, participated in by Sanitary Committee chairmen and local officers. There should be governmental support in the form of budget, equipment and manpower to the sanitary districts.