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Legislation amending the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 to set up a $25,000,000 "national emergency program" for the employment of professional artists was introduced last week by Rep. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.).

If enacted, measure would give grants-in-aid to individual states for projects and productions of general artistic and cultural importance and to those relating to the Bicentennial. Bill proposes employment of painters, musicians, actors, writers, set designers and other artists in years in which unemployment rates exceeds 6.5%. Under current unemployment levels, bill would go into effect immediately.